ORMSKIRK & WEST LANCASHIRE
Champion
24 February 2016 Vol 23 • Issue 8 www.champnews.com

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Proud moment for Normandy veteran Jim

The French Ambassador Sylvie Bermann presents war hero Jim Hornby with his medal

A NORMANDY veteran from West Lancashire has been officially decorated with France's highest award, the Legion of Honour in recognition of his role in helping to liberate the country more than 70 years ago.

Great-grandfather Jim Hornby, 91, from Town Green, Aughton received the prestigious award, established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, for his bravery during the D-Day landings.

He was awarded the medal in November and officially received it last Friday (February 19) by French Ambassador, Madame Sylvie Bermann at a ceremony at Liverpool Town Hall watched by proud family members including his daughters Christine and Angela and grandson Alex.

The French government announced in 2014 that it intended to recognise the selfless acts of heroism displayed by all surviving veterans of the Normandy landings, and of the wider campaigns to liberate France in 1944, by awarding them the esteemed Legion of Honour.

'WICKED' CHILD RAPIST JAILED

Court told former soldier committed historic sex offences when living in West Lancashire

Report by **Lynda Roughley**

A FORMER soldier convicted of historic sex abuse involving two young girls, committed while he was living in West Lancashire, has been jailed for 11 and a half years.

A judge at Liverpool Crown Court told 74-year-old Roger Lee: "You are both wicked and unrepentant.

"I recognise your best years are now behind you but I cannot ignore the fact while you were enjoying your life your victims were struggling to deal with the consequences of what you had done to them."

The court heard that Lee, who served 22 years in the Royal Artillery, committed the offences while living in Burscough.

The first offence involving a 11-year-old girl took place in the late 1970s after Lee had been watching pornography. There was no sexual contact between them but he asked the girl to perform an indecent act, which she refused, said Neville Biddle, prosecuting.

She did not reveal what had happened to her and it only came to light after he raped and sexually abused a 12-year-old girl in 2004, again after watching pornography.

The court heard that the first victim felt guilty about not reporting what happened to her as it might have saved the other girl becoming a victim.

"The decision will haunt me to the end of my life," she said in an impact statement.

ORDEAL

Mr Biddle said that after raping the second victim Lee apologised for what he had done but the next year indecently assaulted her with a sex toy.

That victim told how it had "destroyed her life" and she now "feels worthless, suffers from depression and is having counselling."

It was during counselling that she revealed her ordeal and the police became involved and also learned about the earlier incident with the other victim.

When interviewed Lee, who now lives in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, claimed his victims had misunderstood.

Jailing him Judge Neil Flewitt, QC, said, "You have shown a total lack of remorse for what you have done and have a complete failure to appreciate the harm you caused."

He said that Lee's apology after raping the 12-year-old was "hollow and meaningless" and he had later assaulted her in "a degrading and humiliating" incident.

White-haired, smartly-dressed Lee, who showed no emotion during the hearing, was ordered to sign on the Sex Offenders Register for life and an indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Order was made.

Lee, who walks with a stick, had pleaded guilty to rape, assault by penetration and indecency with a child.

Jonathan Goodman, defending, said there were references that showed a man "who in many respects led an exemplary life. Mr Lee's Army career seems to have also been unblemished and his work ethic thereafter remained high."

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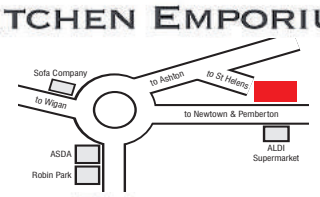

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Budget D-Day for borough council

Green waste collection charges and reduced funding for parish councils among proposals on agenda

Report by **Henry James**

PROPOSALS including charging £30 for green waste collection and reducing funding to parish councils will be discussed when West Lancashire Borough Council meets tonight (Wednesday, February 24) to agree its budget.

The council has a budget gap of £838,000 to try and resolve and council officers have worked out efficiencies totalling £875,000.

Last October a list of policy options proposals with a value of £696,000 were approved for consultation.

Officers said they could raise £500,000 by introducing a £30 annual charge for seasonal collection of garden waste. The proposal also included householders choosing to have an extra green bin emptied for an additional cost of £25.

Proposals also included reducing grants to parish councils, saving a total of up to £33,000.

'Concerns expressed'

Other options included the "rationalisation" of dog waste and litter bins and a move to dual waste bins. It's estimated this would save around £28,000.

Other proposals mentioned replacing the Mayor's Civic Dinner with a charity ball to save £4,000, along with other specific savings on civic budgets totalling a further £6,000.

There were 110 responses to the consultation, 80 from residents, and 30 from stakeholders.

The council has said the "majority" of residents and stakeholders who responded agreed with the policy option proposals, "with the exception of measures in relation to charging for green waste collection and reducing funding to parish councils, where particular concerns were expressed."

And although the number of responses received from residents and stakeholders was greater than previous consultations, the authority said the total responses remained relatively low.

The council has said it is still facing a "very difficult medium-term financial position" and predicts there will be further reductions in grant funding from the government in future years.

In a report for tonight's meeting council officers stated: "Proposals that will have an impact on our services to residents will need to be considered and difficult choices made on how services can be reshaped to ensure that a balanced budget position can be maintained over the medium term future.

"The policy options have been drawn up on the basis that they are the 'least painful' options that are required given the scale of the budget gap facing the council."

Hospital trust board meets

THE next board meeting of the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust will be held in the clinical education centre at Southport & Formby District General Hospital on Wednesday, March 2 starting at 9.30am.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and anyone with a special requirement can contact the trust in advance on 01704 704783. The agenda will be available on the trust website in advance and supporting papers will be available on the day.

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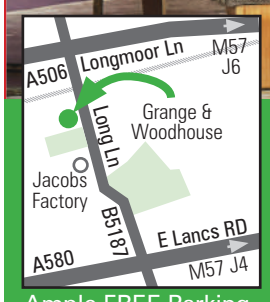

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Impatient driver caused head-on collision that killed disabled man

57-year-old jailed for two years

Report by **Lynda Roughley**

AN impatient driver hurrying home through Scarisbrick caused a fatal crash between two other cars, leaving a disabled man from Skelmersdale dead and others injured, a court heard on Monday, February 22.

Kevin Grisedale had decided to overtake a Peugeot as he drove along Southport Road and the driver of an oncoming Toyota Carina, forced to brake sharply, lost control and ploughed head-on into the Toyota.

46-year-old spina bifida sufferer Andrew Birch, from Skelmersdale, who was in his wheelchair in the Peugeot suffered multiple injuries leading to his death. His 80-year-old mother, Vera suffered serious injuries.

Liverpool Crown Court heard that the devoted mum was in hospital for six weeks, only leaving the day before her son's funeral and was devastated that she had been unable to say goodbye to him.

In an impact statement she described him as "our life" and they no longer felt there was any purpose to life.

57-year-old Grisedale, who just six weeks earlier had been stopped by police for driving at 101 mph on the M58, continued on his way after the 6pm crash on a dark January evening in 2015 and was only arrested six days later.

Arthur Gibson, prosecuting, said that his BMW 335D M Sport was identified after police press releases appealing for information. These led to a motorist telling them of seeing a BMW with the personalised plate KEN driving in a similar manner on other occasions in the vicinity.

When arrested and interviewed Grisedale said he had been on his way from Stockport to take his wife to the cinema. He said: "I started accelerating alongside the Peugeot until I realised a car was coming and pulled in quickly to avoid a head-on collision."

Jailing Grisedale, of Hartwood Road, Southport, for two years Judge Alan Conrad, QC, said: "In this case your momentary dangerous driving set in train a sequence of events which led to tragedy.

Kenneth Grisedale

"You overtook the Peugeot in front of you when it was not safe to do causing the on-coming Toyota to brake sharply and swerve out of control and come into collision with the Peugeot."

Grisedale had pleaded guilty to causing death by dangerous driving on January 6 last year.

The judge said he accepted he had shown genuine remorse about what had happened and his plea had saved witnesses, including Mrs Birch, from having to give evidence.

But he told him: "There was a brief but obvious danger arising from a serious and dangerous manoeuvre."

Grisedale, who has no previous convictions, was banned from driving for two years.

Richard Clews, defending, said that having started the overtaking manoeuvre Grisedale had a split-second in which to make the difficult decision whether to continue or to abort the move.

He said that a toxicology report showed that the 41-year-old Toyota driver, Pamela Savage, had been at least three times over the legal limit for driving under the influence of cannabis and the drug affects reaction times.

"It must be at the very least possible, and may have been likely, that had Mrs Savage been 'sober' she could have been able to react in such a way as to avoid the collision."

Mrs Savage, from Scarisbrick, suffered serious injuries in the collision, including a broken leg and ribs. Her 15-year-old son, who was also in the car, received minor injuries.

Mr Clews said that Grisedale was a "decent and caring person" and the incident "will haunt him for the rest of his life."

DS Keith Rimmer, from Lancashire Police's Major Investigation Team, said: "It was the reckless actions of Kenneth Grisedale on the night of the collision that led to the death of Mr Birch in tragic circumstances. I hope today's sentence sends out a clear message to anyone who carries out dangerous manoeuvres and takes risks on the roads. Such behaviour can cost lives and cause devastation to the families of those involved.

"Although nothing can compensate Mr Birch's family for their loss, I hope the conclusion of the legal proceedings at court today brings them some closure. My thoughts remain with them at this time."

The family of Andrew Birch have thanked police, family and friends for all their support during this difficult time.

Fundraising fun event

A FUN, family-friendly Donkey Derby night is being held this Friday (February 26) to raise money for a national cancer charity.

The Aughton branch of North West Cancer Research are hosting the event at St Anne's Social Centre, Prescot Road, Ormskirk with first race off at 7.45pm. There will be six races, plus children's races throughout the evening and all proceeds will go to cancer research projects in the region.

Guests are invited to bring their own drinks and nibbles. Entrance costs £3 on the door, with children under-12 entering for free.

Service is chance to remember loved ones

A SHORT service to remember loved ones that residents have lost will be held at Ormskirk Parish Church on Sunday, February 28.

The annual Thanksgiving Service is a short, reflective service aimed at helping local residents to remember those who they have loved who have passed away.

Reverend Stuart Haynes, who will be conducting the service, said: "Losing a loved one is always painful so having an opportunity to recall treasured memories and celebrate all they meant to us is a great comfort. This service helps people do just that.

"Our faith offers the hope that we will be with those who died in eternity and that central hope brings comfort to many.

"We would like anyone in Ormskirk affected by the loss of someone they love to join us for this simple act which we know supports many people over the years."

The service will start at 3:30pm and will be followed by refreshments and the opportunity for private and individual prayers.

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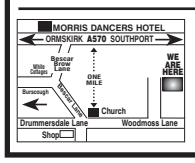

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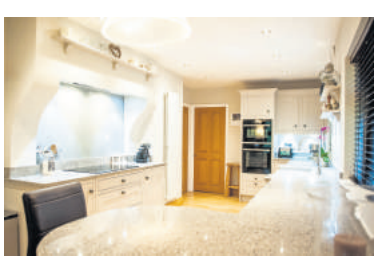

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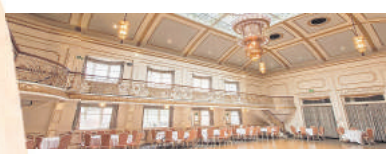

Hospital trust team selected for national end-of-life care programme

SOUTHPORT and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust has been chosen to take part in a national end-of-life care programme.

The Department of Health has chosen the trust as one of just 10 to take part in Building on the Best, a programme which will support improvements in patients' quality and experience of palliative and end-of-life care.

The Care Quality Commission Chief Inspector of Hospitals commended the palliative care and bereavement teams for their outstanding practice in a report on the trust last May.

Dr Karen Groves, consultant in palliative medicine, said: "We are thrilled to have been selected for Building on the Best which will allow us to build on the best practice we have developed with other trusts.

"We have a very proactive approach to end-of-life care which includes a seven-day-a-week service, support and education for staff, and teams that work not just in hospital but with care homes, GPs and the charity sector too.

"Most people say they would prefer to die in the place they usually live rather than hospital. We are the best-performing trust in our network on this measure."

Building the Best will initially roll-out in England. It is funded by Macmillan Cancer Support and is supported by a partnership between the National Council for Palliative Care, Macmillan Cancer Support, NHS England and the NHS Trust Development Authority.

As well as further developing the work of the Transforming End of Life Care in Acute Hospitals programme, Building on the Best will develop new areas of focus for improving end-of-life care.

These will include making information more accessible to patients and their families, to enable more shared decision making; taking the opportunities offered by outpatient appointments to discuss advance and anticipatory care planning; improving the hand-over of information and records as people move between acute and secondary care; and improving pain and symptom management.

Dr Karen Groves, consultant in palliative medicine

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Borough's MP undecided about how to vote in EU referendum

...but she urges residents to 'engage with debate'

ROSIE Cooper is encouraging residents to become engaged with the debate about whether or not to leave the European Union - although she has revealed that she has not yet decided which way to vote in the referendum on June 23!

The West Lancs MP, who describes herself as 'pro-European', says she will be looking carefully at the deal that the Prime Minister David Cameron has put forward before making her decision.

She said: "In October 2011 I voted on a motion in the House of Commons calling for a debate on Britain's relationship with European Union.

"I am a pro-European and believe that our economic future lies with Europe. Ahead of the referendum we need to consider the security of jobs, growth and investment along with the protection of workers and consumer rights.

"For some time it has been evident there is significant disillusionment amongst people and the British people wanted an opportunity to have their say. It was for this reason that I voted in support of a referendum.

"Sadly, since that vote in 2011 the whole EU issue has been more about the bad old days of Conservative in-fighting and internal splits. Even now in 2016 the deal negotiated by David Cameron appears more focused on appeasing backbench Conservative MPs than about addressing the concerns of the British people.

"With the negotiations finished it's now time for the people of West Lancashire and across the UK to decide Britain's future relationship with the European Union."

Rosie Cooper

Ormskirk firm named as Export Champions

A MANUFACTURING company from Ormskirk has been named as one of the North West's Export Champions for 2016.

UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) announced last week that Dantech UK Ltd., a leading manufacturer and supplier of processing, lifting and handling, container washing and hygiene equipment, was one of eight firms in Lancashire who were named as an Export Champion, including Hotter Limited who produce footwear in Skelmersdale.

Export Champions are a group of business leaders in the North West tasked with raising the profile of exporting throughout the region, helping others to develop opportunities and fulfil their global potential.

The initiative was first developed by UKTI in 2013 and is unique to the North West. The 2016 intake comprises 26 new companies, taking the total number of Export Champions to 85.

These range in size and span an array of sectors, but all share a willingness to offer encouragement and peer-to-peer support to fledgling exporters.

Clive Drinkwater, North West regional director for UKTI, said: "Since its launch in 2013 the Export Champions programme has been a huge success, and the companies who have taken part have done a brilliant job of bringing to life the support UKTI can offer businesses looking to export.

"Export Champions are an integral part of our strategy, and those involved are businesses who inspire and motivate those inexperienced in international trade, both by promoting the benefits of export through their own success and by sharing knowledge and experience.

"British goods and services are wanted around the world and we need more exporters in the North West and throughout Britain to meet this demand.

"With the International Festival for Business taking place in June this is an incredibly exciting time for business in the region, and with so many companies spreading the word about the value of exporting there will be a wealth of inspiration for businesses looking to make their mark on the global stage."

Future of swimming pool to be discussed at council meeting

Local users of Park Pool gathered to show their support for the popular facility at the weekend

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A MOTION put forward to strike plans to replace Park Pool in the future will be discussed at the West Lancs Council meeting tonight (Wednesday, February 24).

The results of October's draft leisure strategy consultation recommendations will be discussed at the meeting, with amendments formally adopted by the authority.

A petition signed by more than 1,000 local residents, was presented at the council meeting in October, calling on the council to remove all references to the possible closure of Park Pool from the draft leisure strategy.

More than 50 residents responded to the proposal in the council's online consultation, which ran from November 2015 to January 2016, including representative groups. Of these, 91% stated that they would like the reference to the pool's closure removed, while 74% stated that they would prefer a commitment to investment in facilities.

Key points also raised included the high numbers of schoolchildren and members of the public who attend swimming lessons and that when the pool was originally opened, it was the local residents of Ormskirk who raised funds for it.

The council's agenda item notes that the pool is now more than 40 years old and that the options to be considered for Ormskirk and Park Pool should consider a full replacement facility but that this needs to be considered in the context of the council's challenging financial position, which will require significant savings to be made in the future.

Members at the council's December meeting approved a £150,000 investment in Park Pool and the agenda states that the current changing room provision could be maintained for a further two to four years.

Last Sunday (February 21) local residents, supporters and users of Park Pool gathered to show their support for the popular facility.

Derby ward Councillor Adrian Owens said: "We will fight the local elections in May committed to the construction of new swimming facilities in both Ormskirk and Skelmersdale.

"Swimming is a social good and children need to learn this vital life skill. Only community facilities can fulfil that role."

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New group formed to look at ways of improving town

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A TOWN centre management group have been looking at ways to improve Ormskirk's shopping and leisure experience.

The appearance of the town centre has been examined by the Ormskirk Town Centre Management Group to see what improvements can be made to help complement the work which has already been done to Moor Street to help make the town centre be even more attractive to help encourage shoppers and visitors.

They hope that businesses, landlords and shop owners will also will also engage in this process by improving their own properties.

The group has been set up to implement the new Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy, created by West Lancashire Borough Council in partnership with local stakeholders to improve the town's future.

Some of the strategy's key aims include developing a marketing campaign and improving the management of the town centre, the appearance and appeal of the town centre and making the most of the town's historic character, reviewing car parking arrangements and improving the current transport and evening economy.

Members of the new Ormskirk Town Centre Management Group include West Lancashire Borough Council, Ormskirk Community Partnership, Love Ormskirk, Business in the Community, Edge Hill University and Edge Hill Students' Union.

Councillor Ian Moran, leader of West Lancashire Borough Council and portfolio holder for economic regeneration, said: "West Lancashire Borough Council worked in partnership with Lancashire County Council to carry out a major scheme to transform the pedestrianised section of Moor Street from Moorgate to the clock tower.

"This has helped make that part of the town centre look much better and now the town centre management group is looking to see what other works can be carried out."

David Wilkinson, Ormskirk Town Centre Management Group member said: "The appraisal of the town centre was organised soon after the first meeting of the public realm sub-group in order to identify opportunities to help improve the public realm.

"Having an even more attractive town centre will help bring additional people into Ormskirk as they will be able to see and feel that it is a really attractive place to visit. This will also help sustain businesses operating in the town centre."

For more information about the Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy or to download a copy visit http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/regeneration.

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Call to 'act fast' if you spot blood in your urine

Michael speaks up to support cancer awareness campaign

A LOCAL sufferer is helping to promote a national campaign aimed at raising awareness of bladder and kidney cancers by urging people to "act fast" if they spot blood in their urine.

Michael Uttley has come forward to tell his story as part of the campaign by Public Health England.

The 64-year-old from Southport spotted blood in his pee but initially put off going to his GP.

Fortunately though he did act in time and was able to receive treatment for a bladder tumour at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.

The Be Clear on Cancer – Blood in Pee campaign runs until the end of March. It is aimed at men and women over the age of 50 who make up more than 90% of bladder and kidney cancer diagnoses in England.

Michael said: "If you notice blood in your pee, even if it's just the once, tell your doctor.

"The risks of delaying are just too great. I was reluctant to go at first as I thought diagnosis and treatment would be painful and traumatic. But it wasn't nearly as bad as I thought."

Following a referral to trust consultant urological surgeon, Mr Rahul Mistry, Michael underwent tests and received his diagnosis in February last year.

He said: "The process was much less painful than I expected. Hospital staff were fantastic, very caring and reassuring.

"It was remarkable seeing visually what it was that was growing inside me. I felt relieved that I finally had an answer to the blood I was finding in my urine."

The tumour in Michael's bladder was removed and afterwards he was carefully monitored by Mr Mistry and his team.

Michael is currently successfully undergoing a form of chemotherapy specifically for people with bladder cancer. But he is "fit and well" and enjoying time spent in retirement with his family.

Michael Uttley (left) with consultant urological surgeon, Rahul Mistry

He said: "I have seen for myself that anything is possible if you act fast."

And Mr Mistry commented: "Each year around 17,450 people in England are diagnosed with bladder or kidney cancer and approximately 7,600 die from these cancers.

"If bladder and kidney cancers are diagnosed at the earliest stage, one-year survival is as high as 92 to 96%. Unfortunately, at a late stage, it drops to just 27 to 37%.

"'The 'Blood in Pee' campaign is aimed at raising awareness of the presenting signs and symptoms and encouraging people with relevant symptoms to see their GP without delay."

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Drugs stolen in armed robbery at pharmacy

POLICE are appealing for information following an armed robbery at a pharmacy in Burscough.

The incident took place at around 3.30pm on Saturday, February 13 when a man walked into Fishlocks Pharmacy in Liverpool Road North and walked behind the counter demanding drugs.

A male staff member challenged the man who pulled out a six-inch stiletto blade from his pocket and forced the worker to open the drugs cabinet.

The offender then took 14 boxes of pain relief patches in a carrier bag before leaving the premises.

He is described as being of stocky build and was wearing a light-coloured motorcycle helmet with a black visor, a black-and-white camouflage-style jacket, dark-coloured combat-type trousers and grey gloves.

Lancashire Constabulary would like to speak to the man (pictured below) in connection with the incident.

Detective Constable Dominic Webster said: "This was a particularly terrifying ordeal for the shop worker involved and we need to trace the offender immediately.

"The drugs taken included strong pain relief patches called Fentanyl which can lead to serious medical complications if used incorrectly.

"We would urge anyone who recognises the description of this man, or has seen these drug patches in the Burscough area, to contact police."

Anyone with information can contact police on 101; or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org.

The police want to speak to this man

African project in new plea for funds

A NUN from Parbold has thanked Champion readers for their generous donations to an orphanage in Africa – but says that the community desperately needs more help.

Sister Margaret Rose first went out to the Democratic Republic of Congo 16 years ago to help launch The Gorsilaure Project which takes in destitute children and gives them a home and schooling up to university level.

Run by Father Simon Lumbela at the Gorsilaure Children's Village in Qinsantu, Bas–Congo, the project also has a hospital with maternity and surgical units, as well as overseeing farming, food production and manufacturing schemes.

Although she returned to the UK after three years, 73–year–old Sister Rose, a member of Sister of Notre Dame congregation in Parbold, has continued to work for the project seeking to raise its profile in this country.

After the Champion ran an appeal in December enough funds were raised to buy food for the project, including a special Christmas day meal of chicken and bananas.

But Sister Margaret Rose, who is originally from Scotland but moved to Lancashire three years ago, said that the project is quickly running out of funds, leaving them without enough money to buy food for the orphans.

She said: "The orphans were in dire straits before Christmas but after the Champion article, the project's finance officer, Peter Harding received donations that enabled them to have a special Christmas meal.

"Now though they are quickly running out of funds again and any donations, however small, would be gratefully received."

To make a donation contact Peter Harding on 01383 822540 or 07963 606 677.

Former cub leader charged with indecent assaults

A FORMER cub scout leader has been charged with indecently assaulting young boys.

John Michael Creagh, 79, of Douglas Drive, Orrell, Wigan, appeared at Ormskirk Magistrates Court where he faced five indecent assault charges against the same boy, and three charges against three other boys. All the alleged offences relate to boys under the age of 16 and were said to have been committed during the 1970s either at Ormskirk or in North Wales.

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Borough's roads are driving motorists potty!

THE poor state of many roads in the borough is driving West Lancashire's motorists potty!

The Champion has been contacted by a number of residents from across the borough with fears about safety and anger about expensive vehicle repairs as a result of the number of potholes appearing.

One correspondent even suggested changing Ormskirk's name to Potholes!

Constant wet weather caused by storms across the region, including Desmond and Eva just after Christmas, have taken their toll on the roads leaving many areas riddled with potholes.

The upkeep of the roads is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council, who told the Champion that their strategy for dealing with reduced government funding will be to spend 'more effectively' to ensure they need less money for maintenance in the future.

The county's highways maintenance budget was £22.875million for the current financial year, dropping to £20.9million for the next year 2016/17 (starting in April) and is estimated to drop further to £19.964m for the following year (2017/18).

Last week the council announced a £5million project to repair roads, bridges and foothpaths damaged by widespread flooding this winter.

County Councillor John Fillis, Lancashire's cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "The floods which hit Lancashire at the end of last year caused millions of pounds worth of damage to our highway infrastructure, including road surfaces, and our engineers are still very busy repairing the worst of the damage to ensure safety.

"We have received £5m from the government to repair flood-damaged infrastructure and if there's a need for further funding for highway maintenance we will discuss this with the DfT in the coming months.

"Surveys carried out in the autumn showed the condition of our A, B and C roads had improved over the previous year, demonstrating that our strategy to invest in timely maintenance to bring them into better condition over the long term appears to be working.

"We're doing our best at the moment to deal with all the problems caused by the floods, and things will improve as we get on top of all the repairs which are needed. In the spring we will again begin a full programme of maintenance which will ensure our roads are in better condition by the autumn."

A national independent website, potholes.co.uk, has been set up to help motorists to assist their regional councils to improve the state of their local roads and claim compensation if their vehicle has been damaged by potholes.

A spokesperson for the site said: "Potholes are estimated to cause as many as 1 in 10 mechanical failures on UK roads and cost motorists an estimated £730 million every year.

"Authorities currently pay out more than £30 million in compensation claims due to poor roads.

"Road maintenance in England and Wales is underfunded by £1 billion every year. At current maintenance levels, the average frequency for a road to be resurfaced in England is once every 54 years. In Wales it is once every 107 years.

"If all authorities were given the budgets they need to fix their roads, it would take English authorities 12 years to catch up with the current backlog."

Ormskirk resident Mary Agnew suggested that the town could be renamed Potholes and said: "Am I the only person is Ormskirk that is fed up over the conditions of our roads?

"The potholes are becoming beyond a joke now and they are only getting worse. Something has to be done sooner rather then later as we cannot allow these potholes to continue growing deeper and bigger by the day."

And Aughton resident John Ward added that his car has recently been damaged driving over a very deep pothole on Cottage Lane in Aughton and believes that the council could do more about the area's 'pothole riddled' roads.

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A large pothole in Rufford

A deep pothole in Hoscar

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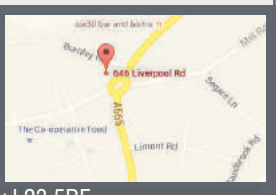

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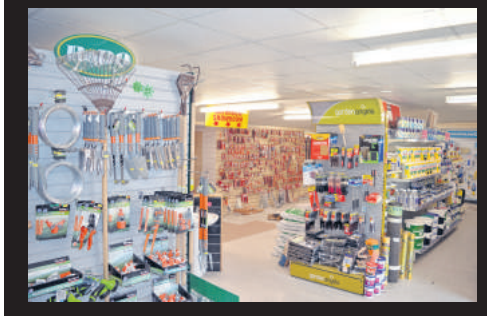

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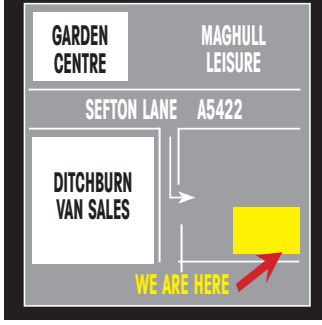

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Former landlady aims to serve up charity cheer in marathon debut

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

GRANDMOTHER Linda Roughley is aiming to serve up some charity cheer when she travels down to Brighton to tackle her first marathon in April.

The 52-year-old, who used to run the Plough pub in Ormskirk, is taking up the seaside challenge to raise funds for Cancer Research UK in memory of her beloved dad, Alan who died from cancer aged just 54, and eight friends she met while working behind the bar who were also victims of the disease.

The mother-of-three is having to make her marathon debut on the south coast because she was too late to enter any of the events nearer to home.

And despite suffering a broken leg a few years ago she is hopeful of completing the 26-mile course in a very respectable time of less than six hours.

Linda, from Lea Crescent, Ormskirk, has been training for the event on Sunday, April 17 with vigorous swimming and running sessions.

She said: "I am so excited to be running the Brighton Marathon and have been putting in the hard work in training. I broke my leg a few years ago and wasn't really able to start training for any sports events until about a year ago but now I am swimming and running three times a week."

And although it's her first marathon, it isn't her first charity fundraising event.

"Last summer I climbed Mount Snowdon to help raise £10,000 for a new incubator for Ormskirk Hospital's neonatal unit.

Linda Roughley

"I will be doing my best to run the course in less than six hours, but even if I end up worn out and unable to run, I will absolutely definitely keep going - even if I have to walk it as it means so much to me.

"Ideally, I'd love to raise at least £2,000."

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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Closing the pumping stations would be utter madness

RE: the letter from Chris Winnard (February 3) about "how much more interesting would Lancashire be if we still had such a dramatic facility as the largest (in area) lake in England, Martin Mere."

During the 17th century, before Martin Mere was drained, Lancashire was often described as England's remotest county. Probably only a few hundred people lived on the bleak wetlands between the Ribble and Mersey estuaries whereas now the population is in the tens of thousands and they all need to eat.

If we allow the return of 'such a dramatic facility' we stand also to lose great areas of prime agricultural grade land stretching from Altcar to Walmer Bridge, plus a good deal of low-lying farmland to the east of the A59 and probably several miles of the A59 itself. Roads, railways, homes and businesses would be lost.

We must face up to the fact that over the past three centuries we have become dependent on a man-made landscape and that our landscape has become equally dependent on the hand of mankind to keep it fruitful and habitable.

We live in one of the most important food-growing areas in the UK. Other important regions such as the Fen District and the Somerset Levels also rely on artificial drainage.

If we allow King Neptune to reclaim his own, the whole country will suffer for it.

Chris Winnard is perfectly correct to state that 'nature will always attempt to claim back what man has won from it', which is why it is utter madness to contemplate the closure of any pumping stations in West Lancashire or anywhere else.

John Youds, Halsall

Feeding the nation is what I call interesting

IN reply to Chris Winnard, when the satellite pumping stations are switched off in 2017, he is absolutely right in his statement, 'nature will try to claim back what man has won.' What angered me is the idea that the formation of a huge lake would make West Lancashire more interesting.

According to DEFRA national statistics, land within this area represents 0.1 per cent of England's total farmed area yet produces nearly 2 per cent of the English vegetable and salad crops and 1.5 per cent of the English potato crop. So it is obviously important in feeding the UK's growing population.

Agriculture and horticulture in this area is thought to provide employment for 2,500 people on a full-time basis across 435 businesses. Now that's what I call interesting. The flooding of this vast area would have a drastic effect on the local economy.

Ann Nelson, West Lancashire

Wind farms are OK in the right place

ELIZABETH Cleary (Letters, February 10) is correct in that wind energy is clean and has many advantages, but like most things in life there is a negative side too.

No wind farm should be approved until a full environmental impact study has been carried out by experts independent of those wishing to construct a site and profit from it.

The downside of wind turbines are noise pollution, the death and destruction they can cause to birds and the impact on environment and habitats during construction.

One expert I have listened to also said that the structures and turbines only have a 25-year life span!

In the case of the Lower Alt, the Environment Agency have just spent money on a flood relief scheme and this has resulted in the creation of the Lunt Meadows Nature Reserve now managed by the Wildlife Trust.

This area is a safe refuge and feeding ground for many thousands of geese, swans, wildfowl and much more wildlife all year round but particularly during winter migration.

Having gone to the expense of creating this scheme it would be crazy to allow a wind farm adjacent to the reserve - it wouldn't poison the birds but it would certainly kill many.

I am not anti wind farms as I quite like our modern-day windmills, but in the right place, please!

Terry Lake, Skelmersdale

PICTURE of the week

A peep into the future

Builders have installed a peep hole so residents can track the progress of the London Pub housing development in Southport.

Picture by Martyn Snape.

Using minor roads is like Russian Roulette

THE pantomime season is over and the jesters have gone back to dreamland.

I, like many right-minded people in West Lancs, am worried about the conditions of our minor (B, C, D) roads.

As stated in the Champion, the road plans for the A59 and A570 have all worked but what about the rest?

I have never seen so many potholes - some large enough to fit your car into - from subsidence and flooding, resulting in people trying to drive over the white lines to miss this terrible mess on our roads.

It's like Russian Roulette for cars, motorcyclists and push-bike riders.

My wife and I only drive on the A roads now, to go off them is to court danger and accidents.

Ken Davies, 26 years an Ormskirk resident

Speeding fines could fund pothole repairs

IF motorists were fined for speeding along Cottage Lane in Ormskirk at speeds of up to 40mph, on a road which has a 20mph limit, the council would have enough money to repair all of the potholes!

Another source of income for the council would be to fine all the drivers parked on double yellow lines in Ormskirk without showing disabled badges. They are everywhere and it is not fair to the genuinely disabled people, like myself.

A. E. Millington, Ormskirk

Courtesy to others makes roads safer

RE: the letter about cyclists wearing helmets (February 3) there is another way of looking at this.

A study in Finland on the use of helmets found that in the majority of cases if the accident was fatal it was mainly due to injury to the torso.

Yes, do wear a helmet if you feel it is safe but do not insist upon it for everyone as the study found drivers tended to take risks with cyclists wearing helmets because it seemed subconsciously they believed they had protection so if hit they would survive.

It's only recently that road racing cyclists began to wear helmets, before it was either a leather one because any injury would be superficial, or, as seen in the Tour de France in the past, even nothing.

What is needed is being aware of other road-users, including walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other vehicle drivers, and acting accordingly.

And we should all thank those who act in this way as courtesy helps to make the roads safer, even if you are met with blind ignorance sometimes.

Stephen Bennett, Ashurst, Skelmersdale

Gentleman Ed will be sadly missed

ON behalf of the West Lancashire Pensioners Forum officers, committee and members we wish to publicly extend our condolences to the family and friends of Ed Dickinson, who was a loyal and passionate member of the forum for many, many years.

A perfect gentleman who will be very much missed.

Also, we would like to send our grateful thanks to Rosie Cooper our local MP, for her tireless pursuit of the establishing of a crematorium/burial ground in this borough of West Lancs.

We also thank all the members of the public who so willingly signed our petition some months ago in the Concourse, Skelmersdale and outside B & M in Ormskirk.

This has now been achieved by the dedication of various groups, past and present and was opened on February 1 in Pippin Street, Burscough which will hopefully benefit residents of the borough, during a very distressing time.

Veronica Prescott, secretary West Lancashire Pensioners Forum

We want your views...

The Champion welcomes readers' letters on topics of local and national interest.

These should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words maximum, and include the sender's name and contact details for verification, although not necessarily for publication.

Letters to the editor can be posted or emailed to the relevant addresses included in the panel at the top of this page.

Please note that the editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

We can't afford to lose this great asset

WE have just learned that Burscough and its railway users are about to lose a great asset, the travel office at Burscough Bridge station.

This facility is used by so many people and is served by three very obliging, knowledgeable staff. Surely we can't see this office scrapped by Lancashire County Council? Not everyone has access to online booking facilities, travel advice and information.

Could Northern Rail not take over the running of this office and keep it open for everyone's benefit?

Mrs P. M. East, Burscough

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Borough to celebrate women

THE MAYOR of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy, is hosting an evening to celebrate the women of the borough.

Cllr Hennessy (right) is inviting women from all walks of life throughout West Lancs to come together to celebrate its diversity of culture, religion and heritage.

The free event aims to enable the women to share experiences, network and enjoy the fact that they make a difference.

It will be held at Ormskirk School, Wigan Road, Ormskirk, on Friday, February 26, starting at 6pm.

Entertainment on the night will be provided by Aughton Male Voice Choir and singers, Beau Dermott and Georgia Gagen.

The event is expected to finish at around 9.30pm and attendance is free, but there aren't many places left and these must be booked in advance.

To book a place call Ann England on 01695 585033 or email ann.england@westlancs.gov.uk.

Workshop needs marketing strategy

STAFF at Brighter Future Workshop a charity based in Skelmersdale who refurbish mobility equipment destined for landfill are asking for companies to help them implement a marketing strategy.

Chairman Peter Cousins MBE said: " local people with disabilities are unaware of our charity. We need to implement a strategy ensuring equipment goes to local people with disabilities."

If you can help contact 01695 724361.

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County council consultation on ending school transport subsidy

LANCASHIRE County Council has launched a consultation on removing subsidies for denominational school transport.

The council currently provides discretionary support for pupils who attend a faith school that is not the nearest school to their home and also meet the transport criteria (more than three miles from home for over-eights, and more than two miles for under-eights).

Parents are currently required to make a contribution of £505 per pupil to the cost. But this discretionary support costs the county council £1.1m per year against an overall home-to-school transport budget of £8m.

Lancashire is one of the last councils in the country to subsidise denominational school transport, which councils are not legally required to provide.

The council is planning to remove this discretion from its home-to-school transport policy for all pupils from September 2016. This means that these pupils will no longer receive any assistance from the council from that date.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson

It is intended that this policy will apply to new starters in September 2016, as well as to those who are currently in receipt of the discretionary subsidy (where parents pay the contribution).

Pupils from low-income families who attend their nearest school on the grounds of parental faith and meet the distance criteria will continue by law to receive transport support.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We face an unprecedented financial challenge as a result of relentless cuts in central government funding combined with a rising demand for our services.

"Unfortunately we've had no choice but to propose cutting a number of services that people value because the council simply can't afford to deliver them anymore.

"The provision of discretionary denominational transport is one of these services. I know that no one wants to either lose free transport or pay more for it, but unfortunately we are in the position of having to take these difficult decisions.

"I would encourage parents and other interested parties to take part in the consultation to tell us how they might be affected by this change."

The consultation is open until Sunday, April 10.

People can have their say via the council's website or in writing to: Denominational Transport Consultation, Pupil Access Team, PO Box 61, County Hall, Preston PR1 8RJ.

ADVERTORIAL

Cloudy2Clear Announce Which? Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 25 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton & Bootle areas and manager Lewis Richardson agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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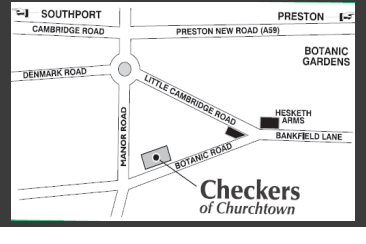

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The New Look Stanley Gate Has Reopened

Mothers Day 2 Courses for £16.99 3 Courses for £19.99

The Stanley Gate, Ormskirk, has reopened after an extensive refurbishment. With more comfortable seating and a lighter and brighter feel, the upgraded pub restaurant is the perfect place to while away a few hours with great food and a drink or two.

With the aim of keeping all of the charms of an old English pub, the refurbishment has been sympathetic to the pub's original features such as the beautiful exposed beams, while giving a much fresher feel, with new flooring and furnishings. Cosy on the inside, the Stanley Gate offers contemporary comfort with old world charm.

General Manager, Ryan, is looking forward to welcoming guests back to the Stanley Gate. "We are delighted with the quality of our latest renovation, and can't wait to show off our new look. We're looking forward to welcoming returning and new guests alike over the coming weeks and providing them with a meal to remember in an inviting setting."

March is the perfect time to visit the Stanley Gate. Guests will be able to experience a brand new menu. The new menu at the Stanley Gate will offer various delights including Caribbean-style jerk Chicken, Buttermilk Chicken Burger & Moroccan style-Lamb. Plus if you have rather sweet tooth be sure to try the new Pimm's Eton Mess Sundae.

With Mother's Day fast approaching, the pub is offering a stunning two course set menu for £16.99 or alternatively three courses for £19.99. There are a variety of dishes available, such as Caprese Avocado Salad, Four Bird Pie and a Millionaire's Shortcake.

The Stanley Gate is also renowned for serving delicious Sunday lunches, including its succulent Roast Topside of Beef, Roast Turkey Breast and Roast British Pork Loin. In addition, the pub offers its famous Trio of Roasts, a combination of the three aforementioned dishes served with all the trimmings.

Booking your table couldn't be any easier – visit www.chefandbrewer.com to book online, call or visit the pub, or download our app from the App Store or Google Play.

The Stanley Gate is open: Mon – Sat: 12:00 - 23:00 Sunday: 12:00 - 22:30
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Adoptive parents needed for siblings and 'older' children

County council campaign seeks loving homes

COULD you provide a safe and loving environment in which to bring up a child?

Lancashire County Council is looking for potential adopters willing to welcome into their homes an 'older' child (i.e. one who is four years of age or more) or siblings.

The county council is keen to hear from a broad range of prospective adopters, including single people and couples, either same-sex or heterosexual and from all religious backgrounds or none.

Consideration will be given to anyone who wishes to adopt, regardless of their age, marital status, sexuality or gender.

And there are no strict rules about whether people should have jobs, their own homes or have their own children.

The authority is particularly keen to hear from people willing to adopt children aged from four upwards and sibling groups of both genders.

The only legal requirement is that adopters must be over 21 and live within Lancashire or nearby.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We are running a campaign in February to remind anyone wanting to start or grow their family through adoption that there are children of all ages ready for a loving home.

Families are desperately needed for children aged four and older

"When people first start to think about adoption, they usually consider a baby, or even a toddler, rather than an older child.

"The unfortunate reality is that children are considered to be older for adoption at just four years of age! It's likely that these children will have a brother or sister and we always strive to keep brothers and sisters together whenever we can.

"We are seeking to find homes for these children in particular but there is always a need for adopters to come forward to look after all types of children of different ages and from different backgrounds."

Anyone wishing to find out more about adoption can contact the county council by calling the adoption team on 0300 123 6723; visiting the website at www.lancashire.gov.uk/adoption and filling in the enquiry form; or attending an information evening, details of which can also be found on the website.

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Beware tree pruning cowboys, warn council

WEST Lancs Council officials are advising residents in the borough to check that anyone offering to prune their trees is fully qualified and insured to do the work.

Householders are also being reminded that they would need to apply to the authority for permission to carry out work on any trees that are subject to preservation orders.

And anyone living in a conservation area is required to notify council officers prior to carrying out any pruning work to trees.

Councillor John Hodson, the council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "It is important that contractors carrying out works to trees are properly qualified and insured to do the work."

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Fate of suspended NHS bosses to be decided by April

Four top figures at Southport and Omrksirk NHS Hospital Trust were excluded from their roles last year after whistleblowing complaints

THE ONGOING SAGA of the suspended Southport and Ormskirk Hospital Trust bosses could be over in a matter of weeks, The Champion can reveal.

Results of an external investigation into the reasons behind the 'exclusion' of four top bosses at the trust are expected by the end of March - at which point the trust will act on the findings.

Although little is known about why the suspensions were put in place, Chief Executive Jonathan Parry, Chief Operating Officer Sheilah Finnegan, Human Resources Director Sharon Partington and Deputy Director of Performance Richard McCarthy were all suspended last August following whisltleblowing allegations.

Now Sue Musson, Chair of Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust says she expects the findings of the external report to be finalised as early as March.

She told The Champion: "The exclusions followed an independent external investigation into three separate whistleblowing complaints received by the Trust. A second investigation was then commissioned under the Trust's disciplinary policy. That investigation is being carried out by another external organisation and is ongoing.

"Current progress suggests that the outcome report may be completed around the end of March/early April, and at that stage the Trust will review the appropriate next steps.

"Exclusion from work is not a disciplinary sanction but is a neutral act while matters are investigated. No aspect of the whistleblowing complaints or investigation relates to issues of patient care or safety."

Throughout the ongoing investigation concerns have been raised about the sheer amount of money being spent by the Trust – who have had to bring in temporary replacements to do the work of the excluded bosses who it is understood have been on full pay during the investigations.

There has also been widespread criticism of how long the investigation is taking.

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Call to support heart charity test appeal fund

Report by **Henry James**

RESIDENTS in West Lancashire are being urged to support a new fund to improve genetic testing for families at risk of developing a heart condition which can prove fatal if undiagnosed.

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) estimates that more than 14,000 people in the North West could be living with the faulty gene that can cause hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM).

The majority of these are undiagnosed and will have no symptoms. And although many will live their lives unaffected, tragically, for some it can lead to a fatal cardiac arrest at a young age, often without warning.

That was the case with Miles Frost, eldest son of the late television journalist Sir David, who died last year at the age of 31.

The family believe that Miles inherited the faulty gene from his famous father and although Sir David didn't die of HCM, a post mortem found that it was present.

Fund launched

Now the Frost family, in partnership with the BHF, have launched the Miles Frost Fund aimed at preventing more families going through the pain of losing a loved one to undiagnosed heart conditions, which kill 12 people aged 35 and under in the UK each week.

It's estimated that one in 500 people are born with the faulty gene that causes HCM, meaning around 120,000 people are living with it in the UK.

The condition leads to the thickening of the heart's muscle wall making it harder for it to pump blood around the body.

Each child of someone with HCM has a 50 per cent chance of inheriting the condition.

The aim of the Miles Frost Fund is to raise £1.5 million to set up a national testing service for family members of those who have died of, or have been diagnosed with HCM.

This will ensure more people receive the screening and treatment they need to prevent sudden death.

Miles Frost, pictured with his famous father, tragically died from an undiagnosed heart condition aged just 31

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Stage and classroom come together - St James pupils and cast members of Dick Whittington

Theatre group bring panto fun into the classroom

PUPILS at St James' Catholic Primary School in Skelmersdale enjoyed an afternoon's entertainment served up by theatre company, M&M Productions with their performance of panto favourite, Dick Whittington.

But instead of the school going to the theatre - the theatre went along to the school in Ashurst Road!

Headteacher, Dave Iliff, said: "M&M Productions have been entertaining the children at St James' for the past few years. The pupils really look forward to the panto and this year's performance was fabulous from start to finish.

"It's important that children have the chance to experience live theatre. We are never disappointed with whatever is served up."

And the school have already secured a booking for next year when Robin Hood and his Merry Men will visit!

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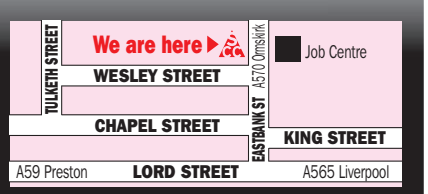

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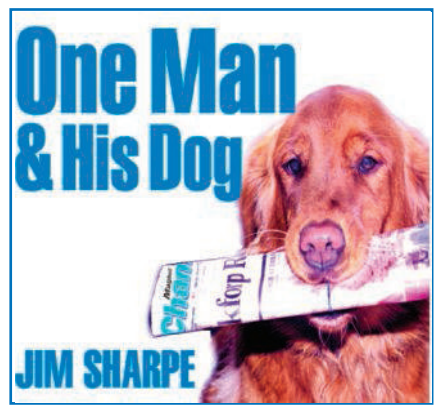

I AWOKE this morning with a sore throat, which was annoying since all was well when I retired to my slumbers.

So first thought was how and why this had occurred - and I surmised that it was probably because I had slept with my mouth open.

Second thought was how to get rid of it. And the obvious answer was to buy one patent medicine or another - and I confess that I have little faith in most of those.

Of course, I could instead either ignore it and wait till it went away of its own volition. Or, better still, since I have lemons left over from Shrove Tuesday, I could buy some honey and make some hot honey and lemon - which would probably cost more but in which I have more faith, and anyway it tastes better.

Then, while taking a leisurely bath I realised suddenly that the offending throat soreness was much abated and before I clambered out it had gone. Vanished.

By then though I realised that I was quite looking forward to my selected medicine and of course I still have those lemons so I reckon my next step should be a quick visit to the shops and obtain some honey.

And it got me thinking about the cure-alls that I remember from my (distant) childhood. Like Vic for chesty colds - one commercial remedy I still swear by. Or the flannel poultices which my mum used to apply to my little bother George, who suffered asthma as a baby and young lad (and that was long before he started smoking). I must confess that I cannot remember what gunk was applied to these, though oddly I can remember what it smelled like.

In recent years I was persuaded to buy, quite expensively, a supposed cure for muscle pain. Fair dos, it seemed to work after a fashion. Trouble was I never finished the course. It made you smell like a chemical works and left unpleasant stains on your clothes.

As an aside, after my brother's death I inherited several shirts aAnd I'll always be reminded that they were his because each has strange and indelible orange stains in various places which I can only imagine were caused by the application of snake oil of some sort or another.

Which is why I abandoned my expensive muscle rub and went back to relying on 'Dog Oil', a really quite cheap ointment originally recommended to me by an elderly crown green bowler. Why it's called Dog Oil I have no idea, as far as I can tell it has no useful application to those of a canine persuasion and to be honest, having examined the list of contents, I really cannot see why it works at all.

But it does - and what's more it has no odour whatsoever, either pleasant or otherwise, and it doesn't stain.

In general though, and I do not recommend this to anyone else, I remain of the persuasion that most aches and pains will, in the fullness of time, go away of their own volition.

The body is a quite remarkable machine in that it can repair itself in many instances without any help at all. In fact, assuming that whatever ails me doesn't call for urgent medical attention, seems better the more you can simply ignore it. Even as a schoolboy I thought that if I was feeling off colour, I might just as well feel off colour at school as at home.

Which is why, with the exception of over-run holidays, I have never missed writing a 'Dog' column - though I suppose some may think it a pity that I don't close up shop at every sneeze or twinge as some apparently do.

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Mayor goes back to school...

MAYOR of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy has opened a new reception classroom at the Maharishi School in Ormskirk.

Cllr. Hennessy also enjoyed a tour of the free school, speaking to each class about what she does and answering their questions about her civic role.

School bursar Phil Mitchell said: "The new purpose-built building is a state-of-the-art, energy-efficient, timber-framed structure, housing a classroom, with its own facilities and a small separate office/learning area. It replaces a portacabin and is a great improvement on the reception's previous classroom, with more space and its own large, designated play area protected with a brightly coloured fence.

West Lancs Mayor Councillor Nikki Hennessy officially opens the new classroom facility at the Maharishi School with reception children and (from left) headteacher Derek Cassells, governor Phillip Mitchell, building consultant Andy Pringle, governor Lavinia Wilkinson and teaching assistant Lisa Hughes

"Everyone had a great time at the official opening. The pupils really enjoyed meeting Councillor Hennessy and finding out about what she does and the mayor enjoyed herself too and spent much longer at the school than originally planned."

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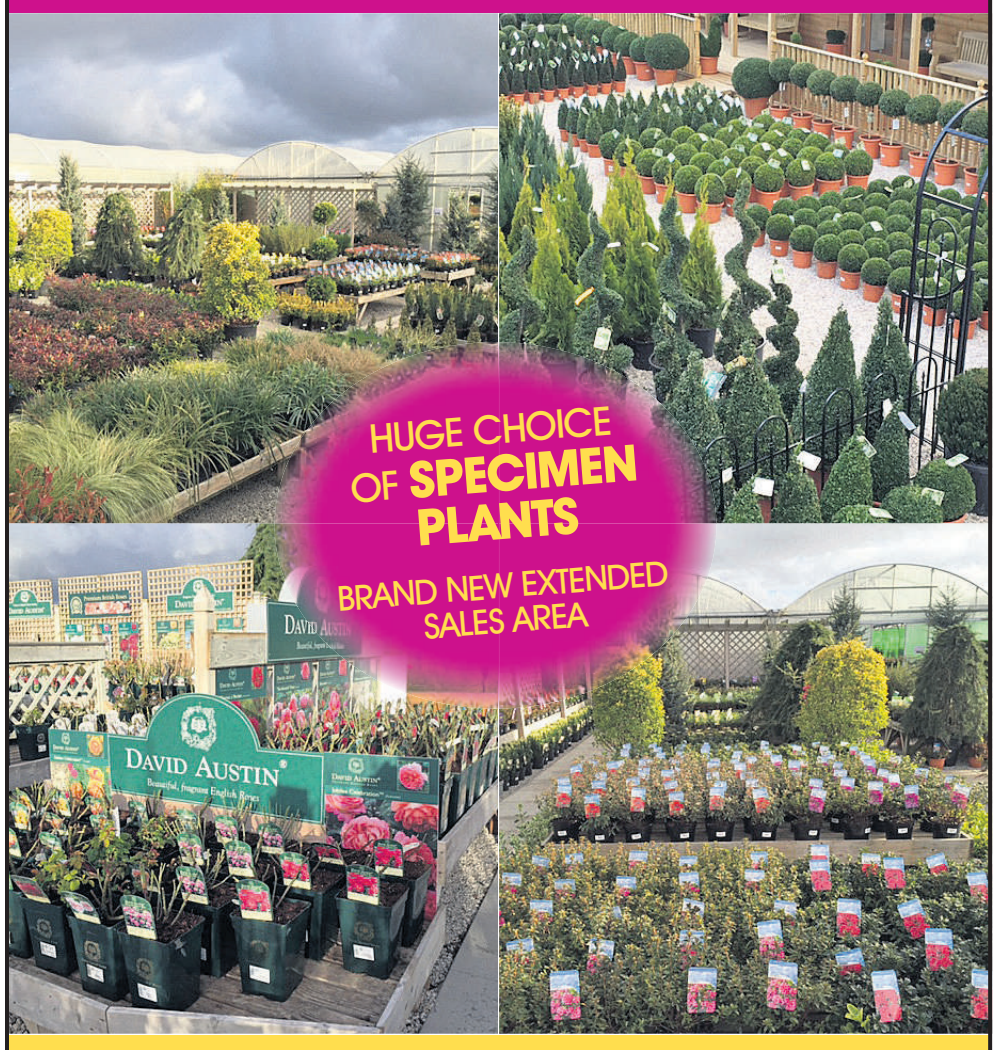

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Parents Lee and Emma with Theo

Theo's family in bid to raise vital funds for town's neonatal unit

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

A FAMILY from Formby whose baby boy was born ten weeks premature are once again embarking on a huge fundraising campaign for the hospital which saved his life.

When Emma Graham went into labour far earlier than expected in 2012 with her son Theo, the family feared the worst as nurses at Ormskirk Hospital's Neonatal unit battled hard to keep him alive during the crucial first few weeks.

But thanks to the care and dedication of staff at Ormskirk Hospital the youngster survived – and to mark his fourth birthday his grateful parents Emma and Lee are organising a series of fundraising events to try and acquire twelve baby monitors for the unit – at a cost of £7,000 each.

The first event of the year will be a Baby, Toddler and Children's Fun Day on Sunday March 13 at The Activity Centre behind the Gild Hall, on Church Road from 12.30pm to 3pm.

Mum Emma told The Champion: "Without the care and attention Theo received on the neonatal unit at Ormskirk Hospital we feel he wouldn't be here today.

"The team were so dedicated to providing support, not only for us as parents, but also other family members. They help so many vulnerable and extremely poorly children and we are so lucky to have such a fantastic unit so close to home."

"Theo was on a ventilator for the first nine weeks of his life and spent his first Christmas on the neonatal unit.

"For our first fundraiser there will be stalls selling pre loved items - books, clothes, toys, shoes and more.

"We have local author Jude Lennon attending signing copies of her book The Dragon of Allerton Oak, she will also be bringing a few other local authors books with her, local business Meadow Stitch will be attending with their hand made goods.

"On the day there will be a Raffle, tombola, guess the price of the hamper, refreshments, plus goody bags to the first 50 people admission is 50p Adults 20p Children with under 2's free. "We are also running a Children's Easter Colouring Competition.

"This is open to all children aged up to seven years old.

"It is just £1 per entry and the money raised will be donated to the Neonatal Unit.

"The closing day is Monday March 7 and all winners will be announced at our Baby, Toddler and Children's Event on Sunday March 13.

"For further information on how to enter and for the colouring sheet please contact Emma on 07979062082 or via our Facebook Page "Neonatal Unit Ormskirk Fundraiser"

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Tax credit online service welcomed

LANCASHIRE County Council has welcomed a new online service which will allow residents to check their tax credit more easily.

The county's Welfare Rights Service has praised HM Revenue & Customs online service, which provides an alternative to having to call the Tax Credit helpline.

More than 85,000 families in Lancashire claim Tax Credits; whether people are eligible and how much can be claimed depends on individual household income and circumstances.

County Councillor Azhar Ali, Lancashire's cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "This is good news. I welcome any improvements that make it easier for people to check and change their details if they need to. Many people prefer to use services online nowadays.

County Councillor Azhar Ali

"Tax Credits can go up or down, or even stop, according to changes in people's work or family life.

"Because of this it is really important that people are able to make sure their details are correct and can amend them easily if they need to.

"People will now be able to check quickly online who is actually included in their Tax Credit claim, how much they will receive and when, rather than having to ring the Tax Credit helpline."

Anyone using the new digital service will need to have a Government Gateway account set up with HMRC. You can register to set up an account at online.hmrc.gov.uk/registration.

Fun and food on the menu for residents group

OFFICIALS of the Ashurst Residents Association in Skelmersdale have organised an entertainment evening, with refreshments, to be held at Lambourne Community Centre, on Sunday, February 28 from 5 to 8pm.

Meanwhile, the group would like to thank Councillor Julie Gibson for her support.

For further information contact Karen on 07873 960 545.

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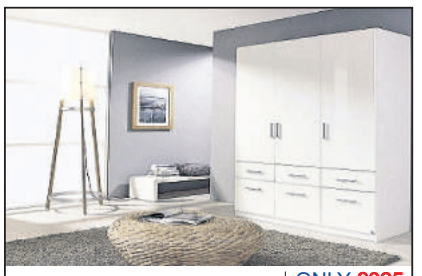

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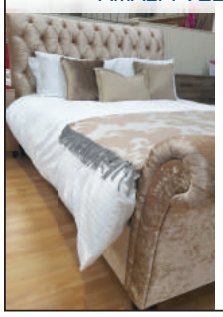

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Great clown's legacy is a serious study for uni's performing arts students

AT a time when hundreds of clowning performers from across Britain have taken part in the annual Joseph Grimaldi memorial service, Edge Hill University performing arts students have been studying the great entertainer's legacy.

This month marks 179 years since Grimaldi's passing, with the 19th Century London entertainer regarded as a trailblazer of the arts, creating the modern clown's comic clobber and antics.

By exploring the work of clowning practitioners such as Grimaldi, Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, Marcel Marceau and more, Edge Hill performing arts students have the opportunity to learn about clowning history and physical comedy, and to incorporate valuable circus and clowning skills in their personal performance style.

Barnaby King, Edge Hill Lecturer in performing arts and clowning, says that students at the Ormskirk university learn the "political and personally vulnerable" aspects of the art form that allowed Grimaldi to poke fun at the establishment, while making a point about complex social issues.

He said: "There are sporadic examples of contemporary comedy that reflect political clowning.

"Sacha Baron Cohen, who was himself trained by French clowning instructor Gaulier, in his many inventive alter-egos often seeks to expose bunkum and hypocrisy.

"Stephen Colbert often seeks to critique the establishment and leadership, most famously to George W. Bush's face at the 2006 White House Correspondents Dinner.

Barnaby King, Edge Hill lecturer in performing arts and clowning

"While the performance component of clowning reflects the light and creative side of the industry, this ability to interpret issues of social and political importance to engage people in a unique way is the essence of Grimaldi's legacy. I am proud to see a new generation of English performers keeping this important art form alive."

"When we think of clowns, our minds often leap to the larger-than-life image of a clown with crazy hair, grotesque face-paint, big shoes, red nose and perhaps a tiny clown hat - think Bozo, Ronald Macdonald, or even Pennywise in Stephen King's It.

"While such popular notions of clowning remain prevalent in the media, and at immersive Halloween scare performances such as 'Farmageddon' in Lancashire, the reality of clowning in the 21st century is a far cry from these stereotypical antics."

Edge Hill University has run modules in circus and clown performance as part of the performing arts degrees for the past five years with great enthusiasm and engagement from students.

Cricket club to hold winter training sessions for juniors

Junior cricketers in training

SKELMERSDALE Cricket Club is holding junior winter training on Saturday mornings at Glenburn Sports College until March 26.

The coaching for Years 5 and 6 will run from 9am to 10am, while Years 7, 8, 9,10 and 11 will run from 10 to 11am.

The free sessions are for both boys and girls are with qualified coaches who have DBS Clearance.

For more information log on to pitchero.com/clubs/skelmersdalecricketclub

Mere seeks volunteers of all ages for spring roles

OFFICIALS at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Martin Mere are seeking enthusiastic volunteers of all ages to join their education, visitor services and canoe safari team this spring.

Volunteer development officer at the Burscough centre, Amy Hannah, said: "We now have more than 180 volunteers at Martin Mere, while nationally the WWT has in excess of 900. Quite simply we couldn't function without them.

"Volunteering with the WWT gives opportunities for all ages. "For our youngest volunteers at 16 it's a chance to stand out from the crowd on their university applications, while our mature volunteers can learn new skills and meet new friends."

"In fact, our oldest volunteer has just turned 89 which shows it's never too late to come and volunteer at Martin Mere."

The centre is particularly keen to recruit volunteers for its education service for weekend and holiday activities including duck hunts, pond dipping, family crafts and taking part in Downy Duckling Week.

In addition, volunteers are also needed to help with the canoe safari attraction and to meet and greet visitors as part of the centre's visitor services team.

For more information call the centre on 01704 891220; email info.martinmere@wwt.org.uk or visit the website at www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere.

Volunteers of all ages are needed at Martin Mere

Centre's backing for domestic violence campaign

THE Liberty Centre, a West Lancashire-based domestic violence/abuse support Service, is supporting the Lancashire, Merseyside & Cheshire Public Health Be a Lover Not a Fighter campaign during February.

The centre offers support for all victims of domestic abuse - women, men, children and young people.

They offer a refuge, independent domestic violence advisers (IDVA)s, community support workers for adults and children and young people, counselling, support groups and training courses.

The centre also has an iInformation and drop-in centre in Park Road, Ormskirk opposite Ormskirk Parish Church.

David Tilleray, West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership chairman, said: "Tackling domestic abuse is a key priority for the community safety partnership and we fully support the aims of the campaign."

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for community safety, commneted: "We want to encourage people to talk about the campaign. We want people to be aware that controlling behaviour in a relationship is domestic abuse.

"If your partner abuses you with violence, verbal abuse, or psychologically or emotionally, help is available at the Liberty Centre and other organisations."

And Greg Mitten, chief officer of West Lancashire Council of Voluntary Service added: "We fully support this campaign and encourage all of our voluntary, community and faith sector groups and partners in West Lancs to use their social media links to bring the discussion about domestic violence into the public focus.

"We are grateful to The Liberty Centre, West Lancs who work every day throughout the year to support victims of domestic violence for also highlighting through this campaign the immediate and long-term damage suffered by children who witness domestic violence."

Competition winners

THE four lucky winners in our Avenue Q competition for a pair of tickets for the Monday night show at the Liverpool Empire were Erin Olverson-Birks from Birkdale; Lorraine Hobson-Taylor, Skelmersdale; David Buckley, Netherton; and Sarah Wakelam, Bootle.

And the four winners of our Impossible competition for a family ticket each for the show at the Liverpool Empire were Lynne Wade from Bootle; Christine Preston, Liverpool; Samantha Funnell, Southport; and Ryan Burney, Bootle.

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Abbey Wood Lodge residents with family, friends and staff at the Hilton Hotel, Liverpool

Care home group's trip down Memory Lane

A GROUP of care home residents enjoyed a trip down Memory Lane as part of an ongoing project aimed at getting older people more involved with their local communities.

The 20-strong party from Abbey Wood Lodge in County Road, Ormskirk were joined by friends and relatives for a visit to the Hilton Hotel in Liverpool where they enjoyed afternoon tea, watched a silent movie, were entertained by a live singer and reminisced about memories of the city.

Home events organiser, Lesley Malone, said: "It was a really lovely afternoon for the residents who all said how nice it was being at the Hilton hotel with friends and family."

Last year, staff at the home spearheaded a campaign to make older people in the local community feel more involved by inviting them to join residents at free activities and events held at the home and day trips out.

Lesley added: "We want anyone who is lonely to come along and meet new friends, have a cuppa and a chat and also get involved with meaningful activities and events, entertainment and trips out and generally feel more included in the community and fight loneliness!

"Anyone is welcome to come along on their own and meet new friends or come with friends and meet more friends! If you would like to know more, contact me on 01695 767778."

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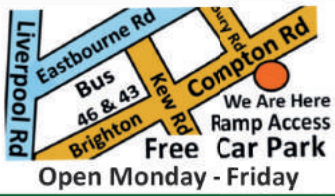

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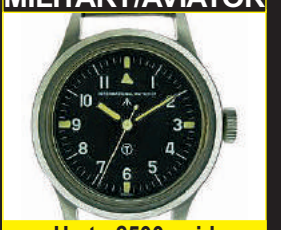

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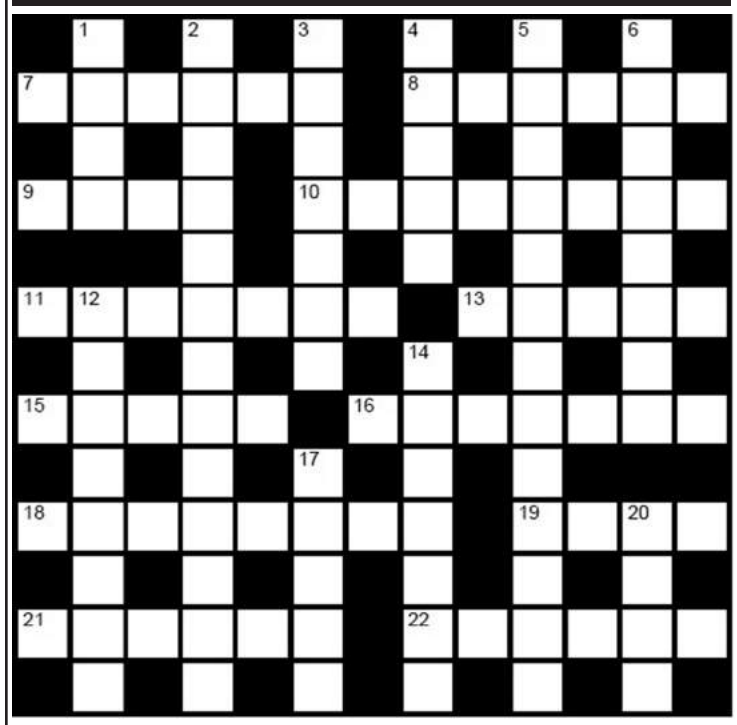

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Wattle and daub. 8 Thank you. 9 Glib. 10 Redcoat. 12 Colic. 14 Rinse. 16 Beef tea. 19 Byre. 20 Vertical. 22 Once and for all.

Down: 1 Wash. 2 Ethnic. 3 New Year. 4 Ensue. 5 Adagio. 6 Fugitive. 11 Edifying. 13 Petrify. 15 Stereo. 17 Friars. 18 Event. 21 Axle.

ACROSS

7 Fuel oil (6)
8 Business providing a service for another group or individual (6)
9 Capital of Ukraine (4)
10 Further improved (8)
11 Frequented by ghosts (7)
13 Credit for a mobile phone or refill for drink (3-2)
15 Freight (5)
16 Loosen (7)
18 (Of a man) Suave, urbane (8)
19 Mixture of clay and lime formerly used as fertilizer (4)
21 A formal evening meal (6)
22 Penalise, discipline (6)

DOWN

1 Abominable snowman (4)
2 Situation in which a person is put to the test (7,6)
3 Compartment in an overnight train (7)
4 Hoard (5)
5 Extra personnel to increase the strength of an army (13)
6 Programme, timetable (8)
12 Environment or community concerned with education or learning (8)
14 A gradual decline into disorder (7)
17 Term for a small child, particularly in Scotland (5)
20 Reddish colour of iron oxide formed on iron or steel by oxidation (4)

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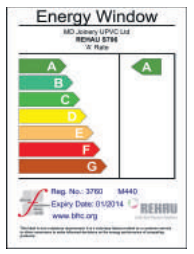

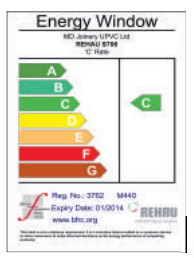

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It is now more than 70 years since the plane carrying Miller to entertain Allied troops in France vanished over the English Channel and what happened to the aircraft remains a mystery.

Featuring a 16-piece orchestra, a full supporting company of performers and dazzling choreography, The Glenn Miller Story tells the story of one of the most iconic musical figures of the 20th century as never before.

The idea for the show was born when impresario Bill Kenwright learned of Tommy Steele's great admiration for Miller and his orchestra which sees him travel all over the world to hear what remains of the original Orchestral Sounds.

Tommy is an expert on the band leader and what he did for popular music from 1939 to 1943 when he was the most popular recording artist in the world.

And three years later, at a dinner party, celebrating Tommy's award as the Most Popular Entertainer of All Time at the London Palladium, they came up with The Glenn Miller Story.

Bill Kenwright teamed up with Bob Tomson to direct the show, having been at the helm of award-winning musicals including Blood Brothers, Evita, and Jesus Christ Superstar, with choreography by Olivier Award winner Bill Deamer (Top Hat, Evita, Save The Last Dance For Me).

The Glenn Miller Story promises to transport audiences young and old back to the days of the big band and have them up on their feet jiving.

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets for this fabulous show simply answer the following question:

In which year did Glenn Miller's plane go missing over the English Channel?

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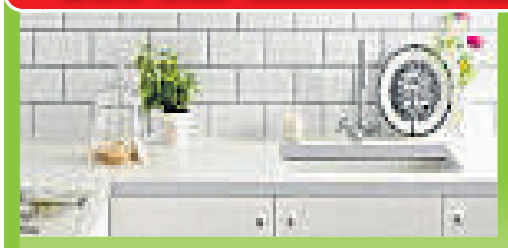

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Andrew teams up with global agency in bid to improve child health care

A HEALTH professional from Lancashire has been working with the United Nations' international public health agency, the World Health Organisation (WHO) to improve the way that children receive and are involved in their own healthcare.

Andrew Clarke, public health development lead for the Children and Families Network at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust has been working with the WHO to generate awareness of children's rights and establish how they can play a vital part in the way that healthcare is delivered to children and their families across Europe.

He said: "I believe we can change the way that children receive and are involved in healthcare by recognising their rights and translating these into how we plan and deliver healthcare on a daily basis.

"I work in countries across Europe, South Asia, South America and East Africa to help their services improve healthcare for children and families, and using practical approaches building on children's rights is a very helpful way to do that.

"Over recent years the World Health Organisation has started to explore how these approaches can really help to improve experiences and also results.

"This led to them forming expert working groups to develop practical tools that can be used in primary care services and hospitals so it's an exciting project to be involved in, which I hope will change the landscape of healthcare and experiences of healthcare for children and families across the country and the rest of Europe."

As a result of the work with the World Health Organisation the trust is starting to explore the ways that children's rights can be used to help improve services in Lancashire.

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Sue: 01695 420 305

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club,
Blaguegate Lane,
Monday 5pm & 7pm
Kathy: 01695 423 658

TUESDAY
OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club,
Blaguegate Lane,
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Kathy: 01695 423 658

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Stopgate Lane/Pirrie Road
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Jenny: 07792 298792
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Lord Street
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Kathy: 01695 423 658

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Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
Wednesday 9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
Wednesday 5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
4.30PM & 6.00PM
Call Marcia - 07976897074

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
Wednesday 3.45, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

THURSDAY
AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
Thursday 9.30am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut
(behind Christ Church), Long Lane
Thursday 5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
3.00PM 5:00PM & 7.00PM
Call Sue - 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
Thursday 9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
Thursday 4.30pm & 6.30pm
Jackie: 07888 830892

FRIDAY
MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
9:30AM & 11:30AM
Call Sue - 07957 531346

SATURDAY
ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School, Aughton St, Ormskirk
8.30am, 10.30am & 12.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
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County's young 'politicians' top Commons debate poll

YOUNG people from Lancashre cast most votes in a poll to decide which issues would be raised in a House of Commons debate.

And the top turn-out in the 2015 'Make Your Mark' ballot saw the county's Members of the Young People's Parliament (MYPs) recognised at a special Westminster reception.

From August to October last year more than 37,000 young Lancastrians cast their votes to decide which issues MYPs would debate in the House of Commons annual November session - 5,000 more than the previous year.

Lancashire's young people said the five main issues of concern for them are mental health, tackling racism and discrimination, transport, the curriculum for life and the Living Wage.

These issues, echoed across the UK, went on to be debated by MYPs in a televised Commons debate on November 13.

MYPs Ellie Bradley and Danni Gold, along with Michelle Cravens, a Lancashire County Council Young People's Service youth participation worker, attended a reception at the Palace of Westminster in recognition that Lancashire achieved a higher number of votes than any other area of the country.

They were presented with a certificate of recognition by the Speaker, John Bercow and minister for civil communities, Rob Wilson.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "This is an incredible level of engagement and achievement. Young people in Lancashire really have jumped at the chance to express their views on issues that matter to them.

"This amazing turn-out is a tribute to Lancashire's members of the youth councils and the Youth Parliament, who worked incredibly hard to generate interest in the ballot."

Members of the 1st Up Holland Guides learn a Scottish dance

Guides hop to it to earn culture badge

MEMBERS of the 1st Up Holland Brownies and Guides, who are in the process of completing their World Culture Badge, learned about Scottish dance music from guest Margaret Rowe, president of Wigan Thistle Society. District Commissioner Julia Peet Draycott said: "There were some very nervous Guides and very excited Brownies. We all had a great time with lots of smiles and laughs."

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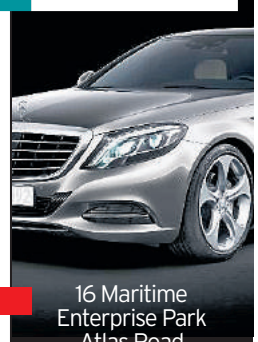

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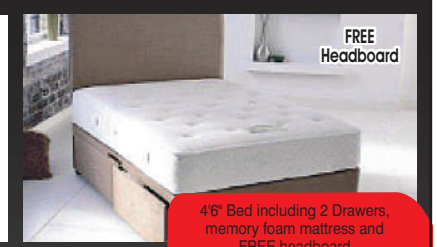

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Homeowners at Coronation Court on County Road in Ormskirk are developing a wonderful and friendly sense of community with regular events and are keen to welcome new neighbours.

Two brand new apartments have been chosen as the March Apartments of the Month, both offering incentives for reservations taken in March 2016.

It doesn't matter if you have a property to sell as McCarthy and Stone can help you every step of the way with their Smooth Move package* or Part Exchange options. They will also pay Stamp Duty^ on new reservations taken in March 2016. Visit the new show apartments and homeowners' lounge soon and find out more about how easy a move to Coronation Court could be this year.

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The last phase of this stunning development brings together traditional architectural styling and modern, luxury apartment living. Each spacious apartment displays an attention to detail rarely found today. The properties are built to a very high specification with private gated access and parking as well as private gardens and seating areas. All the properties have lift access and the communal areas represent those of a 5 star hotel!

The Complimentary Design Service will enable you to truly personalise your new home by advising on flooring, curtains, furniture, light fittings and soft furnishings. A range of apartment styles, the superb specification throughout and the elegant communal areas all come together to really showcase the Dorbcrest difference.

Although it's one of the most desirable addresses in Ormskirk, Cramford House is close to all of the main amenities and shops. With a range of easy move options available including part exchange and the government-backed Help to Buy scheme, moving to one of these simply stylish homes is a lot more affordable than you might think.

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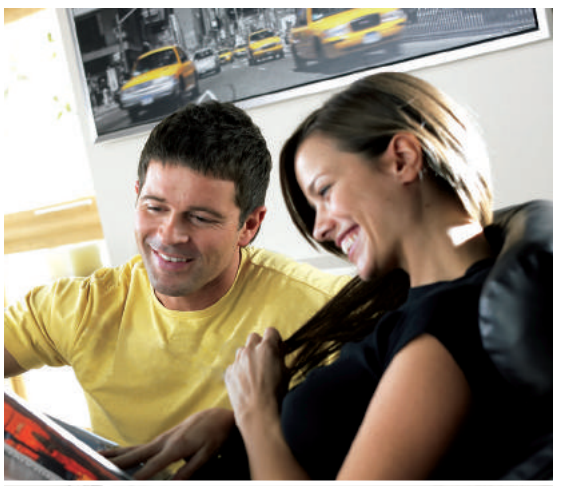

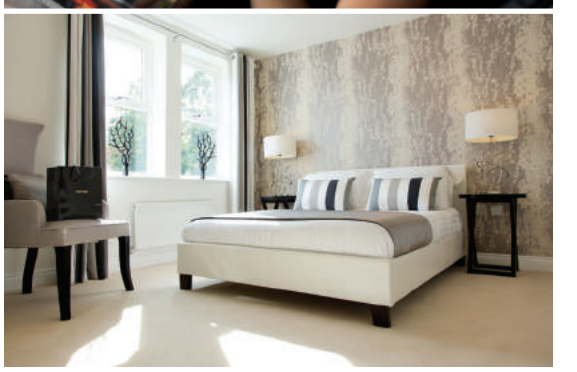

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ART lovers can escape into a wilderness with the new Chapel Gallery exhibition showcasing a collection of artworks, including paintings, photography and 3D.

Into the Wilderness includes atmospheric ruins and nature untamed, subjects which have over the years inspired many artists.

The exhibition runs from Saturday, February 27 until Saturday, April 9 and families can enjoy free activities inspired by the exhibition on the opening day.

Exhibiting artists are Tracey Eastham, Paul Gallagher, Pam Holstein, Justice Hyde, Josie Jenkins, Susan McCall, Anthony Ratcliffe and Jean Davey Winter.

Paul Gallagher became hooked on photography while studying graphic design at Southport College. After finishing college he visited the Lake District and Scottish Highlands as he loved being in the wilderness and using photography to capture what it meant to him. Paul's portfolio led to his work being used by Epson UK and commissions from the BBC and the Environment Agency. He now facilitates fieldcraft workshops and has had books published.

Paul said: "I have never looked back since then and I now run workshops all over the world. This year I am going to California, Utah, Arizona, Japan, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Iceland, the Arctic, Norway, and the Faroe Islands, not to mention the Highlands of Scotland and the Outer Hebrides."

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There are two bathrooms and four spacious bedrooms.

The house has a bright and breezy feel throughout with porthole doors adding to the nautical theme. The comfort has been acknowledged with a four star gold Visit Britain award status.

It is difficult to leave the comfort of the house and the magnificent views, but once you venture outside the door you are in the hub of a charming working fishing port. It is a ten minute walk to miles of golden sand beaches and coastal walks.

For the more adventurous, daily fishing trips can be booked, and sailing and other water sport activities are available a ten minute boat ride away at The Rock Sailing School.

Cycle hire is available within a ten minute walk from the house at the start of the camel cycle trail which stretches 25 miles offering beautiful views of the estuary as you cycle along a disused railway track.

Padstow has become a famous foodie destination, just yards from the house you will find an array of Rick Stein's eating establishments ranging from top quality fish and seafood to take-away fish and chips.

Paul Ainsworth has two further restaurants in the town. Whether you are celebrating a special occasion just having a family get together there is a selection of gastro pubs and eateries to suit all budgets.

You don't need a car to enjoy a peaceful holiday, there are flights from Manchester to Newquay all year round, car hire is available from Newquay airport for around £40 for three days.

A taxi from Newquay to the house costs approximately £15.

12 Strand Street, Padstow sleeps eight in two king-size beds, two single beds and one twin bedroom.

Bed linen, white fluffy towels, tea tray provided for guests, all bills included in rental. Additional services including cot hire and food delivery service is available from the house management company.

12 Strand Street, Padstow is available to book via **www.holidaylettings.co.uk/62753** or you can contact the house owner direct at **kerrybrighton@btinternet.com**

Flights from Manchester to Newquay are available all year round daily from £80 return, while flights from Liverpool to Newquay are available from July to September from as little as £50 return. The drive from Liverpool to Padstow is approximately 5 to 6 hours.

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Mother's Day
Sunday 6th March 2016

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Sunday 6th March

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A special 24 hours set aside once a year to pay tribute to Mothers' endless hard work, selflessness and unconditional love and support.

How do you best describe a Mother?

Her love is the deepest. She protects you like no other. She's your doctor, your teacher and very often your best friend.

She has played one of the biggest roles in shaping the person you become.

She celebrates your successes and is a shoulder to cry on when things don't go to plan.

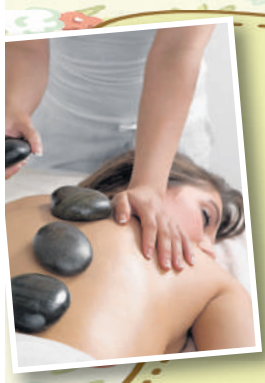
She'll do without the things she wants so that you can have the things you need.

Today is your turn to let her know how special she is.

Treat her to breakfast, buy her a beautiful bouquet of flowers, take her for lunch or afternoon tea or even book her a spa treatment.

Above all, remember, Sunday 6th March is all about showing Mothers how much they are loved and appreciated!

Happy Mother's Day to Mum's everywhere!



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Sunday 6th March

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABRAM HELEN (NELLIE)

Margaret and Patricia Hall would like to express their sincere thanks to Brenda, Janet and Lynn for all their help and support and assistance during their recent loss. Also the many expressions of sympathy from relatives, friends, neighbours, members of Banks WI and the FAN club and for the generous donations made in Helen's memory to Banks Methodist Church. Thank you to the staff in A&E and EAU at Southport Hospital for their excellent care. Special thanks to staff nurses, Kylie and Corrin (EAU) for their kindness, professionalism and care. Grateful thanks to Reverend Kevin Jones and Lawrence Baxter for their ministrations. Sincere thanks to Carl Howard and team at Howard's Funeral Directors for the professional and caring funeral arrangements.

PAYNE WALTER

Edna and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of Wally, a wonderful Husband, Father and Grandad who is sadly missed by all. The family would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made generous donations to Myeloma UK.

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY TOMMY

From Pauline,Carole,-James,Andrew and Sharon.Christine and Tony and all your Grandchildren and Great Grandson.

XX

DEATHS

TAYLOR ZAC

February 11th 2016

No more will we see your smile, no more will you play footie on our fields. Gone to rest with your big sis. Forever in our hearts.
Nan Sandra, Dave, Sheryl, John, Hayley & Courtney
xxxxx

MCMAHON THOMAS PATRICK

12th February 2016
Peacefully at home
aged 67 years.

Beloved Husband of Lena, much loved Dad of John, Tom, Lena, and Dave, devoted Grandad. Tom will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.
The Funeral Service will take place at St Mary's Queen of Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Skelmersdale on Thursday 25th February 2016 at 1:30pm. followed by Committal at West Lancashire Crematorium Burscough.
Family flowers only by request, donations are being gratefully received for Cancer Research UK.
Further enquires to Co-operative Funeralcare, 22c Wigan Road, Ormskirk L39 2AU
Tel: 01695 577244

CAUNCE MARY

14th February 2016
Peacefully in hospital after a short illness
Aged 87 years

Mary will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service and committal at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Friday 26th February 2016 at 2.30pm.
Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired are being gratefully received by the family on behalf of Cancer Research UK.
Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough L40 5UU
Tel: 01704 897770

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DEATHS

HUDSON MARIAN

Monday 22nd February 2016.
Aged 63 years.
Marian passed away at Queenscourt Hospice in Southport after a long and hard fought battle against Cancer and Emphysema.

Loving Wife, Mother, Nanna and Sister.
Funeral service at St. Helens Crematorium on Tuesday 1st March at 11.00am.
Family flowers only but donations to be sent to Queenscourt Hospice Southport.
Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services.
01695 731199

BARTLETT DANIEL

8th February 2016
Suddenly at his home in Skelmersdale
aged 68 years.

The dearly loved Dad of Brian and Chris and Paul (deceased) and Grandad of Katie and Jasmine.
All enquiries to H. Hardman & Co. Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale.
Tel: 01695 722122 / 720012

HIGNETT DAVID ANTHONY

12th February 2016
Aged 67 years

Dearly loved Husband of Christine, much loved Dad of Debbie, adored Grandad Dave to George. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.
Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Thursday 25th February at 10:45 am.
Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for British Heart Foundation. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086

DEATHS

McFARLANE GEORGE ALBERT

16th February 2016
Aged 74 years

Dearly loved partner of Jill, much loved Dad to Sam, Tom and Stephen, devoted Grandad to Leham, Melissa, Bethany and Luca. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.
Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 25th February at 2.00pm.
All enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

McFARLANE TERESA MARY

16th February 2016
Aged 86 years

Beloved Wife of Ted (Dec'd). Devoted Mother of David, Vincent and Jeanette. Loving Grandma to Rebecca, Tanya, Amelia, Solomon, Grace and Thomas and Great Grandma to Rudi and Reno. Funeral Mass to take place at St Annes RC Church on Tuesday 1st March 2016 at 1.00pm.
Followed by burial in the churchyard. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired to Mencap. For further enquiries please contact Hunters Funeral Directors 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk L39 2EY.
Tel: 01695 572997

HAYTON JOHN IRELAND

20th February 2016
Peacefully at home
aged 90 years.

Loving Brother of Elizabeth, Leslie (Deceased) and Mark (Deceased), will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service for family and close friends will take place at St Helens Crematorium on Monday 29th February at 9:30am, followed by a Thanksgiving service at Lathom Park Chapel at 12:00 noon, all are welcome to attend, flowers or donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice or Lathom Park Chapel.
All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane.
Tel: 01695 559868

IN MEMORIAM

CLANCY HILDA

In Loving Memory
02/02/35 - 27/02/15

A loving sister, mum, nan and great nan.
Always in our thoughts.
We miss you loads, from all the family.
xxxx

JEAN PRICE

Passed away 25th January
So sad for the Family,

When i heard the news of her passing away So sorry i have let you down again by not being able to attend the Funeral
But always Loved and in my heart
Vic
xxxx

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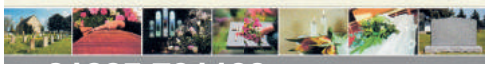

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Hillside Community Primary School
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Classroom Practitioner - KS1/KS2 x4, EYFS x2 (temporary)

main pay range **Ref: 157366 / 157367**

Required 1st September 2016 to 31st August 2017.
The Governors of Hillside Community Primary School and St John's Catholic Primary School are seeking to appoint, talented and inspiring teachers to join our enthusiastic and dedicated teams. The posts are key appointments for the continued success of our schools as we move to outstanding. Our main criteria for the appointments are outstanding practitioners who are enthusiastic to make a difference to the lives of our children and families. NQT's are invited to apply.

Lead Practioner KS2 TLR (temporary)

main pay scale + TLR 2.1 **Ref: 157369**

Required 1st September 2016 to 31st August 2017.
The Governors of St John's Catholic Primary School and Hillside Community School are seeking to appoint, talented and inspiring teachers to join our enthusiastic and dedicated teams.The post is a key appointment for the continued success of our schools as we move to outstanding. Our main criteria for the appointment is an outstanding teacher who can enthuse, engage and motivate all within our community, so that our children continue to achieve their full potential. St John's is a Catholic school, successful candidates would need to show a willingness to undertake CCRS.

Interview dates: week beginning 7th and 14th March 2016
Closing dates: 3 March 2016

Please visit Lancashire County Council or the school's website:
lancashire.gov.uk ; st-johnsrc.com ; www.hillside-pri.lancs.sch.uk

Some schools are excluded as commitment is on an individual basis.

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- Experience programming, setting and operating a CNC press brake
- Computer literacy and exposure to CAD workflow (knowledge of 'PROCAM 2D by Teksoft' as a design tool would be a distinct advantage)
- Must be able to read and understand technical drawings
- Optimising programs to ensure speed, quality and cost effectiveness
- Must be able to manage and set up equipment for our changing and growing demands
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- Able to work on own initiative as well as part of a team

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Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

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THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(POOL HEY LANE, SCARISBIRCK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle from proceeding over that length of Pool Hey Lane, Scarisbrick for a distance of 20 metres either side of the level crossing, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

An alternative route for vehicles affected by the closure is as follows: Pool Hey Lane - Wyke Road - Wyke Cop Road - Snape Green - A570 Southport Road - Pool Hey Lane and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable essential level crossing maintenance to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative from 2359 hours on Thursday 18th February 2016, until 0800 hours, on Friday 19th February 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/1875/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2016/0043/FUL Erection of detached double garage at Ivy House Farm, Course Lane, Newburgh.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
Application No: 2016/0165/OUT Outline - Four affordable dwellings at Land To The East Of Vincents Garden Centre, Southport Road, Scarisbrick.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2016/0105/FUL Two storey extension to side elevation and part rear elevation with single storey extension to remainder of rear, including demolition of existing garage at 26 Junction Lane, Burscough.
Application No: 2016/0143/FUL Demolition of the existing detached house and erection of a new detached house at 53 Granville Park, Aughton.
Application No: 2016/0147/FUL Construction of an open porch to the front door with fireplace bay and chimney to sidewall (NE Gable) at 66B Bank Top, Roby Mill, Up Holland.
Application No: 2016/0154/FUL New pitched roof on existing single storey bathroom to front elevation at 12 Back School Lane, Up Holland.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Interim Director Planning
Dated: 24th February 2016
PDNOT886

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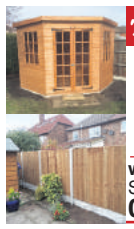

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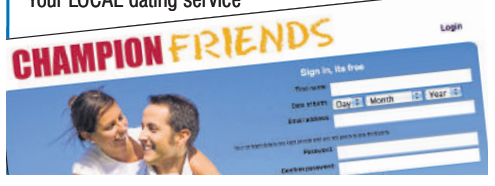

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Volvo's new app could be the key to the future

Life On Cars

DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.blogspot.com

Volvo says its keyless cars will go on sale here next year

IT WAS one of those mornings when I wished I'd stayed in bed. I'd been given the key to a freshly restored Ford Capri – and managed to break it clean in half before I'd even started it!

My face recoiled in horror as a clearly very brittle slither of steel snapped in my hand. Happily, the car had a spare key so it wasn't a case of stopping play, and the people who owned this 44-year-old car were very nice about it to the red-faced and hugely apologetic journalist. I'm sure I can't be the only person it's happened to but it's definitely up there in my list of all time automotive fails.

If only it'd been sometime next year and a brand new Volvo instead. That's when, if the Swedish carmaker gets its way, you won't need to bother with keys at all. The manufacturer that gave you seatbelts, The Saint's wheels of choice and slightly mad 1990s estate cars now reckons all you need to start a car up is an app on a smartphone. Simply bring it with you, strap yourself in and your brand new V90 will faithfully fire up, ready to whisk you to your destination. Interested? It gets better. Volvo says you can share the app with your wife, husband, delinquent teenage son, or your dog, so they can drive your car down to the garden centre without needing to physically pick a set of keys up off you. I can see it working a treat where I work, where I'm forever having to traipse to the other end of a rather long office simply to pick a set of keys up. All I'd need is the app and permission from the car's owner.

It even works between different cars so that you won't need a set of keys if you go on holiday and rent something, although whether you'd need to insist on borrowing only Volvos isn't yet clear. It all sounds a bit *Tomorrow's World* but I like the idea enormously – it's a bit like wondering why we signed for payments in a world before chip and pin or how society ever functioned without the barcode.

All we need now is for Volvo to make the system as foolproof and boringly safe as its cars are. It will still make keys for nostalgic types who remembered starting up cars back in 2016 by twisting a quaint piece of metal, but the real challenge is to make it impossible for someone who steals your phone to also to steal your car. It'll also need to make it a doddle to use, and not just for people who understand how LinkedIn works. Everyone knows how a key works – so to replace it successfully Volvo's app will have to be unbelievably easy to master.

Oh, and Volvo must ensure that in no way can David Simister find a way of accidentally breaking it. Nail that last part and the future of motoring is secure.

David Simister is features editor of Classic Car Weekly.

Maserati debuts new off roader

MASERATI has taken a break from making sports cars and luxury saloons to come up with a rival for the Range Rover Sport and BMW X5.

The Levante is a five-door off-roader and it is offered with intelligent four-wheel-drive as well as a full range of petrol and diesel engines, plus an eight-speed automatic gearbox as well.

It will go on sale, here in the UK, towards the end of the year.

New Kuga responds to verbal prompts

FORD'S given its Kuga off-roader a refresh and the option of a voice-controlled communications system.

It's one of the company's first models to be fitted with SYNC 3, which works in a similar way to smartphones by searching for destinations using simple verbal prompts. The Kuga, which goes on sale later this year, will also be available with a new 1.5-litre turbodiesel engine.

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09 VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE 1.2 5spd, 5dr, met black, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, ABS, service history.....£2,995
07 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM 1600 5SPD, met silver, PAS, E/W, c/locking, ABS, alloys, lady owner, air con.....£2,695
55 RENAULT CLIO 1.4 DYNAMIQUE 3dr, met silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, ABS, pan roof, 1 lady owner, new shape.....£1,995
53 FORD FIESTA ZETEC 3DR 1400cc, 5spd, met silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, ABS, alloys, nice car.....£1,695
58 MONDEO DIESEL HATCH, met grey, PAS, E/W, C/L, ABS, high miles.....£2,995
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7 SEATERS
10 SSANGYONG RODIUS 2.7 TD, 7 seater, met silver, met silver, leather trim, E/W, C/L, PAS, air con.....£3,295
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• 1 Owner
• Pan Roof
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• 61000 Miles
• Alloys
• Rear Privacy

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New In

Only £10,995

60 Mercedes C220 Cdi Elegance Estate

• Automatic
• Alloys
• CD Player
• Leather

NO DEPOSIT

New In

Only £10,995

11 Audi A3 2.0 TDi Sportback

• 1 Owner
• 57,000 miles
• FSH
• CD Player

NO DEPOSIT

New In

Only £10,995

11 BMW 320 Diesel Dynamics

• 1 Owner
• Half Leather
• FSH
• CD Player

NO DEPOSIT

New In

Only £10,995

11 Audi A4 2.0 Tdi Se 4 Dr

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Alloys
• Priv Glass

NO DEPOSIT

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12 Volvo V60 1.6 Diesel 5 Dr

• FSH
• 1 Owner
• Alloys
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• FSH
• AMG Alloys
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CARS OF THE WEEK

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56 FORD FIESTA ZETEC CLIMATE 1.4 5DR HATCHBACK in purple metallic 1 owner from new, full service history, alloy wheels, air con, full 12 months MoT, CD player, charcoal grey cloth trim

55 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 S 3DR HATCHBACK, finished in blade silver, very low mileage only 44,000 from new, service history, 2 keys, low insurance, cheap road tax, full MoT

59 SUZUKI SWIFT 1.4 GLX 5DR, finished in sunburst red, full service history 1400cc, alloy wheels, remote locking, air con, CD player **£3395**

58 CITROEN C4 PICASSO DIESEL AUTOMATIC 7 SEATER VTR+ service history, full Mot, 2 keys, remote locking, Citroen alloys, finished quartz metallic, multi stack CD player, remote locking, air con..... **£4495**

57 BMW MINI COOPER, finished in midnight black, chilli pack, black leather trim, Mini alloys, chrome dash inlay, climate control, 2 keys, BMW service history, multi stack CD system, remote locking, air con. .. **£4495**

57 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 5DR HATCHBACK, finished in Kingfisher blue, only 1 owner from new, travelled only 44,000 miles from new, with service history, full 12 months MoT, power steering, alloy wheels, air con, multi stack CD playe **£2995**

59 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 ACENTA DIESEL, finished in black, full service history, full MoT, only 2 owners from new, low mileage only 52,000, 2 keys, electric windows & mirrors **£6995**

07 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO EXCLUSIVE 1.6 HDI DIESEL, finished in silver metallic, service history, air-con, electric windows & mirrors, cruise control, full panoramic electric sunroof, velour trim, lovely spacious family car, with good mpg..... **£2395**

52 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 COMFORT 5DR HATCHBACK, finished in star silver metallic, service history, only 47,000 from new, full 12 months MoT..... **£1095**

08 CHRYSLER SEBRING SE CRB LIMITED 2.0 DIESEL finished in black, service history 4 door saloon, grey leather trim, alloys, top of range, air con, CD player..... **£2395**

07 RENAULT CLIO, finished in graphite grey metallic, 1400cc, special edition Dynamique model. Only 2 owners, full MoT, remote locking, 2 keys, Renault alloys, service history, 69,000 miles only **£2595**

08 NISSAN NOTE, finished in cayman blue metallic, 1400cc with full Nissan service history. Special edition Acenta model, 2 keys, remote locking, electric windows, alloys, low insurance..... **£3495**

05 NISSAN ALMERA TINO FLAIR 5DR HATCHBACK MPV, finished in silver, previously supplied by ourselves, fully serviced, just been MoTd, 70,000 miles, low insurance only group 5, superb condition.... **£1595**

05 NISSAN MICRA 5DR, finished in techno grey, 2 owners, service history, only group2 insurance, 1200cc, full MoT **£1595**

07 NISSAN MICRA INITIA 5DR HATCHBACK, finished in blade silver, strvice history, previously supplied by ourselves, low tax and insurance, CD player, air con **£2395**

10 BMW 320 4DR SALOON BUSINESS EDITION AUTOMATIC TIPTRONIC in silver blue metallic, fully loaded, full leather, 1 owner, 2000cc petrol engine, full service history, 50,000 miles, Bluetooth sat nav, alloy wheels..... **£11995**

03 CITROEN C3 DESIRE 5DR HATCH, in ice blue metallic, low mileage only 65,000, full MoT, remote locking, 1300cc..... **£1195**

54 CITROEN PICASSO DIESEL, in silver, 2000cc diesel engine, full MoT, power steering, electric windows, service history..... **ONLY £1395**

52 MAZDA MX5 CONVERTIBLE, 1800CC PETROL ENGINE, Mazda alloys, cream leather interior, full 12 months MoT. Factory fitted alarm, special edition trilogy model only 600 made **£2795**

05 FORD FUSION 2 TDCI 5DR, in black, hatchback diesel, recent belt fitted, only £30 per annum road tax **£2295**

10 NISSAN TIIDA LS 5DR HATCH, in sage metallic, very low mileage only 27,000 from new, 1600 cc petrol engine, 2 keys, remote locking, CD player, air-con, service history..... **£3395**

07 MINI COOPER, finished in duck egg blue, and fitted with Mini alloy wheels. Only 1 owner from new and full service history, 12 months MoT, electric windows & mirrors, air conditioning..... **£4995**

59 VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR HATCH, in silver metallic, and travelled only 30,000 miles from new. 1 owner from new, very low insurance group, superb economy, low road tax **£3795**

09 SUZUKI SWIFT 5DR HATCHBACK, finished electric blue metallic, previously supplied by ourselves, full Suzuki service history, remote locking, full MoT, Suzuki alloy wheels, air con, multi stack CD player, low insurance group **£3595**

57 FORD FOCUS TDCI DIESEL, finished in balliol blue metallic, Zetec model, full service history, 2 keys, Ford alloys, full 12 month MoT, air conditioning, multi change CD player, drives superb. Superb Economy..... **£3495**

57 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE ESTATE, full service history, factory fitted roof rails, finished in star silver, 12 months MoT, 2 keys, remote locking, Renault alloy wheels, air con..... **£2695**

03 NISSAN MICRA 5DR, in silver, only 52,000 miles from new, very low insurance, low mileage only 52,000 from new, previously supplied by ourselves, service history, power assisted steering, remote locking, 2 keys, part exchange considered..... **£995**

05 VOLSWAGEN GOLF GT TDI DIESEL 5DR, light blue metallic, power steering, service history, 1 family owner, full MoT, Volkswagen alloys..... **£3795**

12 BMW 116 DIESEL, finished in sunburst red, category D, 61,000 miles, BMW service history, BMW alloy wheels, remote locking, business pack, sat nav, electric windows and mirrors, full MoT..... **£9195**

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MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. Terms and conditions apply, participating dealers only or visit www.peugeot.co.uk (insert Dealer name) is acting as a credit broker and is not a lender. ^Representative 4.9% APR over 37 months. To finance your purchase we will only introduce you to Peugeot Financial Services, the exclusive provider of Just Add Fuel. A guarantee may be required. Finance provided by and written quotations available from PSA Finance UK Ltd t/a Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. †The first year Road Fund Licence (RFL) is excluded in the on the road price. The Dealer will provide customers with a cheque equivalent to twice the current RFL cost. The customer must apply for years 2 & 3 RFL. Just Add Fuel (JAF) is subject to status. *Maximum age 18, maximum age 75. **Drivers are required to install the Telematics Box & consent to Data capture & transmission to qualify for insurance.** All drivers must hold a full UK licence & meet eligibility criteria including limits on driving convictions & claims. **Insurance subject to cancellation if you receive four warnings for poor driving.** Excesses apply. 3 years motor insurance is provided and underwritten by U K Insurance Limited which is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. This offer is not available in Northern Ireland. Payments will vary according to age, post code and annual mileage. Customer deposit may be required. The costs of insurance, servicing and Roadside Assistance are included within the monthly cost of JAF Passport but are provided on a monthly, pay-as-you-go basis and can be cancelled at any time without penalty or affecting the remainder of the JAF Passport contract. Excess mileage charges may apply. Routine servicing included only. Excludes wear parts. All offers available on qualifying vehicles ordered and registered between 01-01-16 and 31-01-16 or until such time as they may be withdrawn by Peugeot at its complete discretion.

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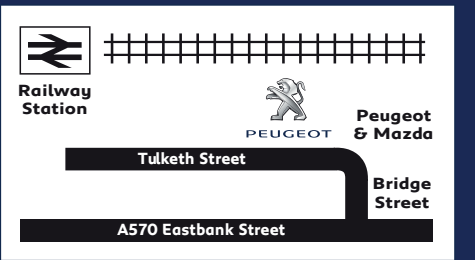

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Balance to Finance	£13570.60		

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Models shown for illustration purposes only. *Prices quoted are after Scrappage allowance and deposit allowance. Subject to terms and conditions. Full partners and none partners prices will vary, please call for a quote. Vauxhall Viva models excluded from Scrappage Allowance. *Must be based on a like for like quotation.

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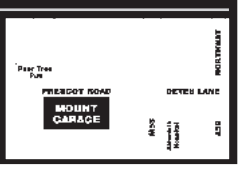

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Skem hit four in thumping win

Skelmersdale United 4
Rushall Olympic 1

Dylan Vassallo chips in Skem's fourth goal

SKELMERSDALE United hit four in a convincing win last week thanks to a brace from Max Hazeldine and strikes in either half from Robbie Booth and Dylan Vassallo, *writes John Driscoll.*

Skem caught Rushall on the counter in the ninth minute and the attack saw Max Hazeldine fire across goal only to see the ball ping off the post. Skem soon went one better when Robbie Booth advanced into the box before clipping the ball inside the near post past Ryan Price to open the scoring.

Rushall had a great chance to draw level as Alex Reid cut through the Skem defence before forcing a strong save from Fearon.

Kris Taylor swept an effort over the bar for Rushall before an intricate one-two between Chris Almond and Hazeldine saw the latter loop the ball over the bar. A near post header from a looping corner was Rushall's best chance of the first half hour but they were soon 2-0 down on 34 minutes as Vassallo slipped a superb pass through to Hazeldine which saw him race towards goal before slotting past Price. Rushall contributed to their own downfall six minutes before the break as a challenge in the Skem area saw the Pics appeals to the referee allowing Skem to take advantage with a quick counter, which saw Hazeldine collect a superb through pass to curl past Price for a 3-0 lead.

The lead could have been four at the break as Almond clipped a shot just past the post.

Skem's domination continued into the second half and Dylan Vassallo latched onto a long pass and with Price advancing, the midfielder chipped the ball from long range into an empty net for 4-0. Rushall did get a late consolation as Morris flicked on a corner which Fitzpatrick tapped in for 4-1.

Special offer to entice Reds and Blues fans

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

SKELMERSDALE United face two tricky home games in the space of four days as they look to climb up the table - and they have a special offer on Saturday to entice Premier League fans to the match.

The entertain Grantham Town on Saturday and because both Everton and Liverpool are without games on Saturday, Skelmersdale are offering their supporters the chance to sample local non-league football at a discount price.

If you bring your season ticket along to Stormy Corner for the 3pm kick off you can have entry for just £5.

The entry fee also presents the chance to take the children to the match too as child entry on the day is just a £1. It should be good game as well after Skelmersdale have won three consecutive home games.

At the time of writing Grantham sit two points behind Skelmersdale, although Skem have played three games less than the Lincolnshire club.

The two teams met back in October and drew 1-1 at Grantham, Kenny Strickland getting the Skelmersdale goal.

Vice-Chairman Norman Fenney said: "Many of the regulars at Stormy Corner are former season ticket holders at Everton and Liverpool, so it is a positive way of encouraging them to come along to their local team instead. They will be able to see that there is plenty of decent football nearer to home, they will be made very welcome and we hope to see them again."

Skelmersdale are at home again on Tuesday, March 1 when Marine make the trip to Skelmersdale for what some people have christened the 'M58 Derby.'

Like the Grantham match it is important from a league position perspective as Marine are eight points behind Skelmersdale with a game in hand.

There will be plenty of local interest in the Marine encounter as two Skelmersdale players, centre-forward Danny Mitchley and midfielder Alan Burton, joined the Mariners in autumn in the search of bettering themselves.

Both are Skelmersdale based players and they will no doubt be under the spotlight next Tuesday.

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Linnets' play off hopes dented after home defeat

Burscough 1
Ossett Town 2

Burscough try to win the ball back from Ossett Town

BURSCOUGH'S play-off hopes were dented after their poor league form continued with a third consecutive defeat at the weekend.

The Linnets are now falling away from the top five after a month which has seen them pick up only four points in five games.

The latest defeat was at the hands of lowly Ossett Town, who will be delighted to come away with three points to help their relegation fight.

The away side were first to attack when Alex Peterson sent Danny Frost away but the flag was up for offside to bring an end to the attack.

Burscough then hit back with Liam Caddick and Jon Conway but Town cleared the danger.

Burscough were awarded a free kick 30 yards out and from the resulting kick there was an appeal for a penalty waved away by the referee.

On 16 minutes, Burscough took the lead when Jack Wajefield fouled Linnets attacker Will Jones around 20 yards out from goal. Paul Williams took the kick but the keeper let it slip through his hands and into the net.

Caddick then did well out wide and his cross was cleared for a corner. From it, Chris Backhouse gathered after a goalmouth scramble.

After 37 minutes Burscough conceded a corner and Danny Frost was on hand to turn and hammer the ball home to make it 1-1.

On 63 minutes Town took the lead when a long ball to Peterson was played on to Frost who seemed certain to score but as his shot was well saved by Calvin Hare in goal, but the rebound came back out to Peterson who made no mistake to make it 2-1.

The goal shook Burscough who then made 3 substitutions and tested Towns defence in the final half an hour.

Burscough piled on the pressure late on but despite five minutes of added time, the home side could not find an equiliser.

Burscough were scheduled to face Farsley Celtic last night (Tuesday) before hitting the road again this Saturday to play New Mills at 3pm.

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Crucial conceded free kick set hosts on their way

Frickley Athletic 3
Skelmersdale 0

AFTER a decent start Skelmersdale conceded what proved a crucial goal to an 18th minute free-kick at Frickley Athletic, the hosts scoring via a looping header.

Martin Fearon gave Skem a chance when he saved a 44th minute penalty to set up a promising second-half.

Skelmersdale striker Max Hazeldine was thwarted by a tremendous at his feet from Frickley's Polish goalkeeper Sebastian Malkowski before the Yorkshiremen went into a 2-0 on 69 minutes and added to it ten minutes from time.

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